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New gun law to be in force this autumn

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CAROLE MIDGLEY AND RICHARD FORD

TIGHTER controls on the licensing of handguns are expected to be in force within months in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy and fresh concerns yesterday about a runaway schoolboy alleged to have stolen rifles and pistols from a pensioner's home.

Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre is expected to report within three months, and its findings will be taken alongside those of a Home Office inquiry into firearms law to form the basis of new measures to be included in a criminal justice Bill by the autumn.

These are, however, unlikely to include the ban on keeping firearms in private homes that many MPs want. The Government has made plain that it wants to avoid a kneejerk response and Michael Howard has decided against tabling his own proposals until after Lord Cullen has reported.

But some Home Office sources say that calls for speedier action may prove hard to resist and the pressure intensified yesterday with the arrest in Buckinghamshire of 14-year-old Robert Crawley and a 16-year-old friend after a three-day police hunt. Two rifles were recovered, but two pistols taken from Peter Preston's home in Chalfont St Peter on Friday were still missing.

Teenagers regularly visited Mr Preston, a 60-year-old bachelor who is one of the country's leading marksmen, and they could have seen his collection of five rifles and two

handguns when he laid them on his bed to clean them. The guns were stored in a stainless steel cabinet with a double lock and the keys were in a boiler cupboard near by.

Friday's break-in prompted a wide search by armed police and Robert's school was closed yesterday as a precaution. Plain-clothes police patrolled three other schools at the request of the head teachers. Robert, whose parents were with him as police questioned him after his arrest at a house in High Wycombe yesterday, is now thought likely to face charges.

The case is bound to fuel the anti-gun lobby's concerns about where firearms are kept, but ministers are expected to opt for tougher licensing controls rather than impose a total ban on individual possession of such weapons.

One senior MP said: "If people living in vulnerable circumstances feel they need a gun, they will have one. And provided they get it under

properly licensed circumstances they should have it. A total ban would send the whole trade underground."

Mr Howard is also understood to have strong misgivings about the idea that weapons should be held at gun clubs, fearing that they might be stolen by criminals and terrorists—a view shared by Michael Colvin, the Conservative MP who is president of the Westminster shooting club.

Mr Colvin said there was no case for wholesale reform of a law that had been changed after the Hungerford massacre in 1987. But ministers believe that vetting procedures for issuing firearms certificates can be improved and Labour is likely to back measures that put the onus on applicants to show that they need a gun.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that tougher controls were needed, although he would not support a ban on handguns that would leave Britain unable to compete in international shooting events.

Mr Howard's cautious approach did not, however, satisfy his former Cabinet colleague David Mellor, who attacked the "forces of procrastination" as he renewed his call for a fundamental overhaul of the gun law.

The "total inadequacy" of the existing controls and the need for immediate legislation had again been highlighted by events in Buckinghamshire.

As he spoke, Thames Valley Continued on page 2, col 6



Winnie Mandela, left, who "cannot afford her own lifestyle", and President Mandela at a press conference before the divorce hearing

I was the loneliest man, says Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA told his divorce hearing yesterday that he had been "the loneliest man" during the two years he lived with his wife Winnie after his release from prison.

South Africa's 77-year-old President told the Rand Supreme Court that he was determined to rid himself of a woman whose infidelities had caused him embarrassment.

Making a surprise appearance, Mr Mandela, wearing a sombre grey three-piece suit that matched his grim demeanour, said he regretted having to explain in public why his marriage had broken down irretrievably. Glancing towards the judge he said in a sad voice, at times barely

audible in the hushed courtroom: "Ever since I came back from prison, not once has the defendant ever entered our bedroom whilst I was awake."

"The bedroom is where a man and woman discuss the most intimate details and problems. There are so many things I wanted to discuss with her, but she is the type of person who fears confrontation. I was the loneliest man during the period I spent with her."

Seated at a long wooden table his estranged wife, elegantly attired in gold and black, did not look up once during his testimony, but stared into her lap or scribbled.

Earlier, Mr Mandela had spoken of his affection for the wife who bore him two

daughters and with whom he shared many of his happiest days. But he said the marriage now existed "only on paper".

President Mandela, who began divorce proceedings four years after separating, had never previously spoken publicly of his problems.

Recalling how a newspaper editor approached him in 1992 with a letter confirming rumours about his wife's infidelity, he named Dali Mpofu, a young lawyer from the African National Congress, as his wife's lover. He said he had been forced to reveal the details to counter his wife's claim that there were other reasons for the divorce.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers had suggested that there were "somewhat slight tensions" between the couple arising

from her 1991 trial for kidnapping the 14-year-old ANC activist Stompie Seipei, who was murdered after being taken to her house in Soweto.

Ismael Semanya, one of her lawyers, called for a postponement because there had been no mediation as prescribed by customary law. When it came to fidelity, he added, perhaps Mr Mandela was not altogether pure.

But Mr Mandela said he had wanted to end the marriage much earlier, but had stood by his wife because he did not want the world to think they were separating over the Stompie case. He stood by her innocence.

Speaking in stern tones, he said: "If the entire universe persuaded me to reconcile

with the defendant I would not... I am determined to get rid of this marriage."

The couple were married in 1958, when he was 41 and she was 25. Yesterday, save for a curt handshake, they could not even look each other in the eye.

Mrs Mandela is seeking half of her husband's assets. The judge ruled that more time should be given on her counter-claim over a financial settlement and that she should be advised of the full extent of the President's assets while the hearings proceed.

Mrs Mandela is known to be heavily in debt. Mr Mandela's affidavit referred to her financial problems, saying: "She cannot afford her own lifestyle."

Going public, page 10

Bill to safeguard building societies

Predators hunting for a building society to boost their corporate expansion plans will be thwarted by legislation to protect societies wishing to retain their mutual status.

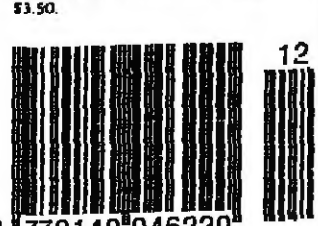
Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced a draft Building Societies Bill to "ring-fence" two societies that are proposing to merge against outside bids. Page 25

Islanders moved before war games

China and Taiwan evacuated residents from small islands where Peking was due to start new land, sea and air exercises. Taipei said it thought bad weather had delayed the manoeuvres, which are designed to influence Saturday's presidential elections in Taiwan. Pages 11, 17

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Yorkshire Water 'thought of evacuating Bradford'

By PAUL WILKINSON

YORKSHIRE WATER considered evacuating almost a million people from the Bradford area as their taps threatened to run dry during last summer's drought, an inquiry was told yesterday.

City planners said the company told them that the huge tanking operation might not meet demand. If the reservoirs in the Pennines failed, people would have to be moved, the inquiry into the company's role heard.

Ann Beattie, an emergency planning officer with Bradford City Council, said in a written submission: "At meetings on August 3 and 11 with Yorkshire Water, staff were told that tanking would not help because too many tank-

ers would be needed to have any effect. In the event of the reservoirs running dry, the only possible outcome was that Yorkshire Water would



be looking to the local authorities to evacuate the area."

Peter Bowler, of the pressure group Water Watch, said: "Where did Yorkshire Water think people would go? The entire population of Bradford could not stay with Yorkshire Water chairman Trevor Newton's mother-in-law." The quip was a reference to Mr Newton's claim that he was saving water by not bathing, which was shown to be misleading as he was showering at his in-laws' home outside the area.

Last night Yorkshire Water denied there were any plans to evacuate large areas of Bradford, Calderdale and Kirkcaldy and said it was asking Bradford Council to substantiate its remarks.

Beef war likely in row over hormones

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE scene was set yesterday for a "beef war" over growth hormones pitting America against Europe after European Union ministers overruled British objections and toughened controls on imports.

The decision by farm ministers will ensure that Washington goes ahead with proceedings against the EU at the World Trade Organisation on the grounds that it is illegally blocking imports.

The Americans cite scientific evidence, some produced by the EU Commission itself, which shows that naturally-produced growth-promoting hormones in meat do no harm to human health.

Tony Baldry, Britain's deputy agriculture minister,

backed the American argument, but all other EU states sided with the Commission argument that approval of hormone use, banned since 1988, would cause a consumer backlash.

Allowing hormones, they said, would damage the industry further when it is already suffering from the scare over BSE, the so-called mad cow disease.

There are to be tighter controls on farmers and slaughterhouses found to be handling hormone-treated beef. The crackdown follows the emergence of an active "hormone mafia" which has used violence against campaigners. A prominent Belgian vet was murdered last year.

Soap opera Australian-speak raises the tone

By DOMINIC KENNEDY SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG Britons are adopting a pattern of speech that makes them sound more like Australians.

Their tone of voice rises towards the end of a sentence, as if an unanswered question were left hanging. To the ears of the older generation, it can jar because the intonation appears to be in the wrong place.

Language academics and voice coaches are divided about the reasons for the growing trend. Soap operas, a

desire to be egalitarian, or a lack of confidence among young speakers have all been blamed.

Barbara Bradford, author of *Intonation in Context*, has studied the voices of English people aged under 26. She gives as an example the sentence "The cat sat on the mat". Most older Britons would lower their tone on the word "mat" because they are imparting information. Many young people would now use a rising tone for "mat".

It is a pattern of speech similar to the traditional accents of parts of Australia and New Zealand, as well as

Liverpool and Northern Ireland. The huge popularity among young viewers of the Australian soap operas *Neighbours* and *Home and Away* and the Liverpool-based *Brookside* is one possible source of the trend.

Ms Bradford, of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, has another theory. She argues that young people feel uncomfortable with the implied superior status of being a giver of information. Using the rising tone avoids this.

"It makes it sound like you are asking a question but you are making people able to agree, like 'We both

know this, don't we?' You have a shared experience."

"This form of intonation is much more prevalent with young people. It gives the impression of a sort of bonding."

Patsy Rodenburg, head of voice at the Royal National Theatre, blames a lack of confidence in the young generation. Many youngsters she teaches are afraid of expressing a view with firmness and clarity. "That rising inflection is about being unsure," she said. "You make a question rather than a statement because you are scared."

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A question of heart attacks and neck pain

Westminster watchers will have noted the birth of a new kind of "open question". The open question is the bland preliminary enquiry which conceals the backbencher's real question, his second one. Backbenchers have to do this because they are obliged to give written notice of their first question. That threatens to spoil the fun because it gives the minister time to prepare his answer. So the chair (by custom) allows the backbencher to come back for a second bite at the cherry, catching the minister off guard with a question related to the first, but for which he cannot prepare. The open

question must be so general that the minister cannot guess where it is leading; but it must relate to his responsibilities.

The favourite open question asked of a Prime Minister is whether he will state his engagements for the day. He duly states them. The MP then prefaces his second question with, "In the course of a busy day, will he find time to tell us why..."

To departmental ministers questions cannot be completely open, but almost so. MPs questioning the Transport Secretary can ask when he last travelled by train — leaving scope for any imaginable railway enquiry.

Of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, MPs can first



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

enquire what are the prospects for the British economy. These opening gambits are rather like asking about the weather: they break the ice, but they are dull.

Until yesterday, Ministers from Wales were in dock for Questions. The first on the order paper was intriguing. Simon Coombs (C, Swindon) was to ask ministers for "a statement on progress in reducing the incidence of coronary heart disease in Wales".

A junior minister, Rod Richards, replied with a volley of

have been reduced, as a result of the widespread sense of contentment which this sporting victory has brought.

The next backbencher on his feet, Labour's Allan Rogers (Rhondda), understood the link perfectly. If the minister wished to achieve further "positive reductions in coronary heart disease" in Cardigan, would he please instruct the leader of the council there to drop his plans for a ban on all housebuilding which was not for the provision of dwellings for those within 25 miles of the town, or those born within its boundaries. Fury at this plan was giving the people of Wales heart attacks, implied Rogers.

Madam Speaker allowed

the discussion to move to housebuilding in Cardigan. Readers will appreciate that the precedent now lets through a whole new range of googlies to howl at ministers. "What are the figures for insomnia, and will the Health Secretary make a statement?" — then ask about whatever it is that keeps you awake at night.

The possibilities are legion. If the Government gives you a pain in the neck, the head or the backside, if ministers drive you to drink, distraction, or a peptic ulcer; if the Tories bring you out in spots or a fit of the screaming abba's, tell your MP and tell him why: you may supply the Commons's next open question.

World's media leave people of Dunblane to mourn in peace

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND STEPHEN FARRELL

THE world's media withdrew from Dunblane yesterday after relatives asked to be left to bury their dead in peace. One reporter and one photographer from the Press Association, the national news agency, covered the first of 17 funerals to be held this week after reaching agreement with police and the families.

A change in mood was evident after the Queen's visit on Sunday, which was felt should mark the end of the public mourning. Yesterday morning, Central Scotland Police dropped their plans to provide access to the funerals for newspapers, television and radio and closed a conference room that had been set up in the city centre. Stirling Royal Infirmary cancelled plans for television crews to film the recovering child victims.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, had appealed to the media, on Sunday night, to "respect the privacy of those who are grieving so intensely. A decision by editors and broadcasters to pull back from Dunblane now would be enormously appreciated by the community and the country."

The BBC withdrew an edition of *Panorama* about the Dunblane shootings last night for fear of offending the local community. Tony Hall, managing director of BBC news and current affairs, said that the corporation did not think it right to show the programme on the day of some of the funerals.

he said. *The Times*, in common with most of the British media, immediately complied.

Chief Inspector Colin Mather, head of the Central Scotland Police press team, explained the reaction his officers had observed. "The Queen's visit was the end of the public process. The feeling is that now is the time for private grief."

By the end of last Wednesday, the day of the massacre, 200 journalists from all over the world had packed into police and local authority press conferences in Dunblane. Huge satellite dishes were quickly erected for journalists to work in the streets of Stirling and Dunblane, which has a population of 7,000. One Norwegian tabloid hired an

aircraft and ran 14 pages in the next day's edition.

Mr Mather said: "I appeared on television in Colombia, Canada, the USA, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland. The Colombian presenter who conducted a telephone interview said: 'We are very sorry for you in Scotland.'"

Yesterday, Ben Vallance and Robert Purves, who were injured in the shootings, were released from Stirling Royal Infirmary. Another child, Ryan Liddell, is expected to be sent home from hospital in Glasgow today, leaving five children and two teachers as in-patients.

A spokesman for Stirling Royal said: "Mark Mullan is continuing to make good progress. Matthew Birnie was able to get up today for the first time. Amy Hutchinson is making progress although still in traction."

"On Ward 25, Eileen Harriid and Mary Blake, the two teachers, are continuing to make good progress."

At the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill in Glasgow, Amie Adams and Coll Austin were making good progress on a general ward.

Letters, page 17



Peter Preston's gun cabinet is now empty and he does not expect to be allowed to keep firearms again

Gun law

Continued from page 1

Police were launching an investigation into how the two teenagers arrested yesterday came to know about Mr Preston's arsenal.

They and their friends had for several months been frequent visitors to Mr Preston's small housing association bungalow, where they would be given tea and biscuits while they watched television.

Mr Preston said last night that he would not deliberately have let the boys see his guns, but they might have seen them on his bed. They might also have seen where he kept the keys to the gun cupboard. "Children are very alert these days," he said. "I wish I had put the keys in a different place."

Mr Preston has held a firearms certificate since 1959 and his security arrangements were checked by the police last December when it was due for renewal. The licence is now being held at the local police station and Mr Preston accepts that he is unlikely to get it back. "I regret that because guns are my hobby, it's what I do and I'm good at it," he said.

Mr Preston was the country's top marksman in 1994 when he won a competition on behalf of the Wendover Rifle Club.

Peter Hall, the match secretary, described him as a remarkable shot, but said: "He has been rather silly and careless if he allowed boys to see his guns and we shall have to review his membership."

Mr Preston was a little eccentric, but not wicked.

MP shooting enthusiasts rally to deter legislation

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

SHOOTING enthusiasts in the House of Commons are preparing to counter demands for tighter gun control legislation in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.

Although MPs from both sides of the Commons yesterday denied the existence of any formal gun lobby at Westminster, they said a coalition of target shooters and field sportsmen

would emerge if calls for a ban on handguns gain ground. They warned ministers against formulating ill-thought-out legislation in a "knee-jerk reaction" to Dunblane.

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory MP for Weston-super-Mare and chairman of the British Shooting Sports Council, said the umbrella group, which represents various sports shooting organisations, would meet soon to consider any threat from tighter legislation. "We will watch the whole

situation with great care because there are so many madmen shouting wild things about it and we want to make sure that the Government takes a sensible view," he said.

Last night the council issued a statement expressing its "revulsion" at the killings but added that "until the full facts of the case are revealed it is impossible to form any useful judgment or even identify issues which, with certainty, might be relevant". Sir Jerry said there was no

formal gun lobby at Westminster. "There is just a gun fraternity," he said.

Sir Hector Monro, the former Scottish Office Minister and former president of the National Small-bore Rifle Association, also rejected the idea of a gun lobby.

"An organised gun lobby is an exaggeration," he said. "If legislation comes, there will be various groups of people outside the House who will try to interest us. But we are not

a lobby in an organised sense."

Martyn Jones, Labour MP for Clwyd South West and one of the few Opposition members of the Westminster Shooting Club, said the idea of a gun lobby was a "load of nonsense."

He added: "The papers are talking about it as if we have a gun lobby like in the States where the National Rifle Association is immensely powerful. We just simply don't have that in the House of Commons. It is absolute rot."

Tories urge free vote to keep Clarke on board

By PHILIP WEBSTER,
NICHOLAS WOOD
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY



Clarke unhappy at currency referendum

SENIOR Conservatives are trying to head off a Cabinet split over Europe by urging John Major to announce that MPs would be given a free vote if a Tory Cabinet were to decide in the next Parliament that Britain should go into a single currency.

In an attempt to heal the differences between Kenneth Clarke and a handful of colleagues on the one hand and a majority of Cabinet ministers on the other, the Tories are proposing that a referendum would take place only if the Cabinet of the day and Parliament, on a free vote, had backed British entry. However, Cabinet ministers would be bound by collective responsibility to support the decision to which they had put their names.

The compromise is being urged on Mr Major after repeated suggestions that the Chancellor is deeply unhappy about proposals for a referendum, expected to be agreed by the Cabinet over the next two weeks. Some have hinted that he would quit rather than go along with the plan, although his closest friends deny any such intention.

A big backstage effort is proceeding to keep Mr Clarke on board. He is at present on a trip to South Africa, but it is understood that the paper being drawn up by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on the implications of a referendum will be faxed to him shortly.

Mr Rifkind and senior Whitehall officials moved yesterday to placate Euro-sceptic Tories by insisting that the

Government would be bound by the outcome of a referendum.

Fears had been sparked by Mr Rifkind's remark on Sunday that the plebiscite might be "advisory". But officials said that the Foreign Secretary had been alluding to a "technical issue...for the sake of completeness". One aide added: "Mr Rifkind thinks that if there is a referendum, it will be politically binding."

Mr Rifkind told MPs it was "entirely incorrect" to interpret his weekend remarks as suggesting that a referendum might be ignored.

He insisted he had only been listing the issues that needed to be addressed before deciding whether to hold a referendum. "That was immediately interpreted in certain quarters as indicating a preference for one form over the other."

"It has been assumed to be constitutionally necessary for the legal status of a referendum to be advisory because that would otherwise conflict

with the sovereignty of Parliament, but governments have always indicated in advance that they would in practice accept the outcome of the referendum. It has been the practice in all previous referendums."

Mr Major has yet to make a final decision but there were indications yesterday that he will insist shortly that all Cabinet ministers would have to toe the majority line on a single currency.

That would be welcomed by Mr Clarke and his supporters, as would the proposal that the referendum could only be held after an unfettered decision by MPs to back entry. Mr Clarke and other Cabinet ministers have been opposed to any procedure that would undermine the sovereignty of Parliament. While a referendum result would prove decisive, the Clarke camp believes that the public would fall into line behind Cabinet and Parliamentary assent to a single currency.

The threat to Tory party unity posed by the euro was highlighted yesterday by John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister. He said on BBC Radio that MPs had not been elected to Parliament to "give the country away".

Later, in a speech to foreign exchange dealers, Mr Redwood claimed that the driving force behind economic and monetary union was a "wish to create a country called Europe, whatever the price".

But the costs would be high in terms of lost jobs and economic misery. He estimated that taxes would have to go up by 8p in the pound to help meet a bill for another £10 billion in Britain's contribution to the EU budget.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug firm accused of distorting study

A British drug company was accused last night of distorting the results of a study of the Aids drug AZT to protect its commercial interests. Scientists from the Medical Research Council who worked on the international Concorde trial of AZT say that representatives of Wellcome, the maker of the drug, attempted to delete the main conclusion of the five-year study which said the results "do not encourage the early use of AZT".

The finding, published in *The Lancet* in April 1993, dashed early hopes that AZT was a breakthrough treatment. Wellcome's share price fell sharply. Professor David Warrell, chairman of the trial, said on BBC's *Panorama* the company had put pressure on the researchers to alter their report and had distorted the findings at a press conference.

Fight to contain oil spill

Emergency teams from the National Rivers Authority were fighting last night to contain the spread of hundreds of gallons of oil spilled into the River Medway near Tonbridge, Kent. Booms were placed across the river in the centre of Tonbridge and three miles further downstream at Paddock Wood. Teams were trying to trace the source of the oil, believed to be from a factory.

New churches planned

The Church of Scotland is planning to build at least seven churches for £500,000 each despite concerns about finance. The Church's Board of National Mission proposes constructing them in new housing areas in Aberdeen, Glasgow and elsewhere. Last year, the Church had to use money from reserves to ease a funding crisis but a spokesman said there was a need for expansion.

'Lord' of Lundy leaves

A chartered accountant who was chosen to become the "lord" of Lundy when his predecessor left after an adulterous affair has resigned after eight months. Tony Blackler, from Launceston, Cornwall, whose instructions were to restore the island's image, cited "personal reasons" and a wish to further his accountancy practice. He intends to return to Launceston.

Sex-case GP suspended

A married doctor who gave drugs to a vulnerable 31-year-old patient before having sex with her during a two-year affair was suspended for 12 months by the General Medical Council. John Razzak, 41, a GP from Guernsey, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and told that he had come close to being struck off for abusing the trust placed in him.

DIY drug author jailed

A campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis was jailed for 12 months yesterday after writing and publishing a guide on growing the drug at home. Michael Marlow, 51, unemployed, of Newnham, Gloucestershire, was convicted by Worcester Crown Court of inciting others to produce cannabis. Judge Mott told Marlow that his book was a detailed guide to break, rather than change, the law.

Tunnel pipedream

A water company is planning to import up to half a million gallons a day from France through the Channel Tunnel if supplies here are threatened by drought. The French-owned Folkestone and Dover Water Services company wants to carry out tests in which water would be pumped through the fire-fighting and cooling system mains.

Bruno returns for a rest

Frank Bruno returned to London yesterday apologising for losing his world heavyweight title to Mike Tyson but refusing to say whether he would retire from boxing. Bruno, 34, said: "I just want to go home and spend some time with my family. I want to chill out. Then I will be in a better position to say what I will do." Bruno waits, page 48

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'Man of vision' fiddled school fees

Gambling debts led to downfall of navy commander

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL NAVY commander described as a natural leader and a man of vision was addicted to gambling and stole money to meet debts of £20,000, a court martial was told yesterday.

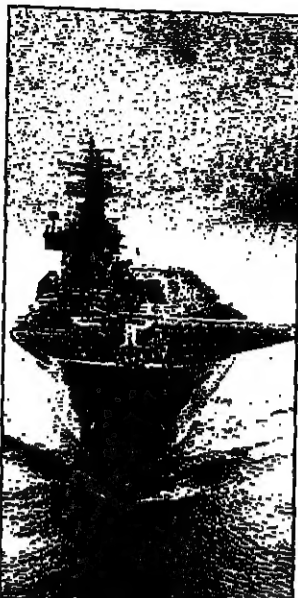
Commander Graham Woodworth, 38, who served as meteorological officer on the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, admitted eight charges, including stealing £2,655 by claiming lodging allowance for a house in Muswell Hill in north London when he was committing to the Ministry of Defence each day from his married quarters in Portsmouth.

He also admitted four charges of misappropriation, involving more than £12,000 paid by the MoD over three years towards his children's fees at Bembridge School on the Isle of Wight and Ardingley College in Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Although he was entitled to a boarding school allowance, Woodworth used the cash to help to pay off his debts. He also broke one of the Royal Navy's rules by taking in a lodger at his married quarters to bring in extra cash.

The court martial at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth was told that Woodworth's financial downfall was due to an obsession with gambling. Lieutenant Commander John Flannagan, for the prosecution, told the court martial that investigators had uncovered a series of financial irregularities.

In an interview, Woodworth admitted claiming a lodging allowance for an address in Muswell Hill. By signing the form he was saying that he would normally spend four nights a week at the address. Commander Flannagan said: "He left the house in May 1995 but continued claiming lodging allowance until August. He did not report that and continued to travel daily from his married quarters in Portsmouth."



Ark Royal, in which Woodworth served

mouth. "School fees, he said, were paid for his children, Stuart and Angela, both 13, and Dale, 11. The money was paid on the condition he handed it to the schools within two months of the beginning of term. But Woodworth often delayed payment for several months."

Bradley Albuery, for the defence, said: "He is a man who in his wildest dreams or nightmares could not imagine being involved in a court martial. The gambling addiction directly caused him to commit the offences. He was born into a family which had gambling addiction in it. His father's gambling had got so bad that the matrimonial home had to be sold."

Woodworth was introduced to the "mechanics" of gambling as a student at Manchester University when he worked part-time in a bookmakers'. Now he would acknowledge he was a compulsive gambler. He admitted the problem to his wife in 1993 and also to the Navy. "He has been going to Gamblers' Anonymous since autumn 1995," Mr Albuery said.

Woodworth, who had been in the Navy for 15 years, was viewed by his peers as an officer of outstanding talent, enthusiasm and commitment. He had started a new job in the oceanographic and meteorological department at the MoD in London in autumn 1994 after serving on Ark Royal.

He had been promoted to lieutenant commander in March 1988 and to commander in December 1993. He was the first man from his era to be promoted so rapidly.

Commander David Stainsbury, from the same oceanographic department, said Woodworth was one of the few men he could call a man of vision. Appearing as a character reference, he said: "When I heard he was to be charged, I was shocked, surprised and devastated. I thought, 'Here is an able and talented man who is about to be cut down by a fatal weakness'."

Woodworth's guilty pleas were accepted and he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment and dismissed from the Royal Navy. He was ordered to pay back the £2,650 he had stolen.

Captain Simon Goodall, president of the panel, said: "In considering sentence the court has taken into account your pleas of guilty and all that has been said so ably on your behalf. We are acutely aware of the effect of this sentence on your family but there is no escaping the fact you are the architect of your own downfall."

"You have woven a web of deceit which has entangled your family and close friends. The root cause was your addiction to gambling but this does not change the stark fact you have been dishonest and the service depends on mutual honesty and trust. You have betrayed that trust. We therefore consider these offences are so serious that we have no alternative but to impose an immediate custodial sentence and dismissal from the service."



Antiquities in the UK: Johnny Rotten and the veteran Pistols yesterday. "There's nothing wrong with growing old," declared Rotten

Rotten fires up Pistols for one last blast

By JOE JOSEPH

WATCHING the surviving members of the Sex Pistols, who swore and spat and sometimes even sang their way to punk glory in the 1970s, regroup in London yesterday gave you a new respect for Frank Sinatra and Val Doonican and the art of ageing gracefully.

Led by a beer-bellied, 40-year-old Johnny Rotten, now a rich expatriate living amid the anarchy of front-line Beverly Hills, the four men chose the 100 Club in Oxford Street as the place to announce a world tour this summer.

Why? Because the 100 Club was where they first made waves in 1976. Trying to recapture their two-fingered rebelliousness, the Sex Pistols cursed and belched at a media troupe that has grown old with them, but which has long since traded in rancid bondage straps for mortgages and wedding rings and push-chairs in the hall. As Anar-

chy in the UK and God Save the Queen screamed over the loudspeakers, the 300 or so journalists, music industry executives and photographers who had gathered to mark the Sex Pistols' rebirth quivered with all the heady rebelliousness of thermal underwear.

"This is sad, isn't it," one journalist shouted out as the band, looking like pantomime dames wheeled out in their dotage, boasted about how they would just be replaying their antique hisses. "It's sad that an asshole like you doesn't appreciate the effort we've gone to," Rotten, né Lydon, snapped back, genuinely angry. Then he belched.

Maybe anxious that reviving the spirit of punk might be as tough as reviving Sid Vicious — the one-time Sex Pistol who died of a heroin overdose in 1978 while on remand for the murder of his



The way they were: the Sex Pistols in 1976

girlfriend Nancy Spungen — the organisers showed us films of the band in their prime and videos of that television interview with Bill Grundy.

"Isn't this a complete about-face of everything you've stood for?" "Bollocks!" hissed Rotten. "We invented punk. We make the rules."

But hadn't the Sex Pistols done the decent thing and disbanded when they had had their day? "I've changed my mind," Rotten explained. "Money is part of it. That does not make me a hypocrite."

He belched again. "People have lived off us. We haven't had a penny, or respect, from

it. There's nothing wrong with growing old. I've matured gracefully," he added, apparently in earnest. "We love our beer bellies."

They play their first date in Finland on June 21, and will appear at Finsbury Park in London on June 23. Glasgow and Belfast are the only other UK fixtures so far in a 19-date European tour. Six weeks in America will be followed by trips to Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

But Rotten is not inviting anyone to hold their breath. "To be quite frank, it's highly likely that we will beat the crap out of each other in the first three seconds."

"Do you think you've grown up?" someone asked. "No, I've grown wide," Rotten replied.

"What do the Sex Pistols stand for?"

"Money."

"How far can you spit these days?"

"You wanna test it?"

Er, no thanks.

Who'll put the fizz into final?

By JOHN GOODBODY
AND ALAN MITCHELL

TWO soft-drink companies are at odds over whose product the players in the League Cup final will be seen consuming by a television audience expected to top ten million.

Aston Villa and Leeds United, the finalists in the competition sponsored by Coca-Cola, both use Lucozade Sport as their official drink. They are under pressure not to display it prominently on Sunday at Wembley because of the stadium's contract with Coca-Cola. Martin Corrie, a Wembley spokesman, said: "We have proposed a compromise to the clubs. We have asked that Lucozade is not prominently displayed and we have even offered to provide plain, unmarked bottles. Now the ball is in their court."

Ian Muir, Coca-Cola's manager of external affairs, said yesterday: "Coca-Cola will be made available to both teams. Whether they choose to drink it is up to them. We had the same contractual arrangements last year and there was no problem. We hope there will be no problem this year."

SmithKline Beecham, manufacturers of Lucozade Sport, said it would "continue to supply" the two finalists. The Football League said its agreement with Coca-Cola for the tournament specifically excluded sports drinks.

Terrier savages horse ridden by girl of 15

By ADAM FRESCO AND PETER FOSTER

A HORSE being ridden by a 15-year-old girl was dragged down and savaged by a dog in an hour-long attack which left it badly injured and unable to race again.

The 12-year-old gelding, a cross-country eventer called Robert III, was being ridden by Jessica Long on the beach at Bembridge, Isle of Wight, in preparation for the island's Grand National this weekend when the Staffordshire bull-terrier escaped from its owner and attacked.

Miss Long was forced to dismount and tried to beat off the dog, but to no avail. She was said to be shocked by the attack. Vets battled for three hours to save the animal.

Harry Van Praagh, the

owner and trainer of the 16-hand horse and a former National Hunt jockey in Ireland and trainer at Lambourn, said the dog almost ripped its left front leg to shreds. The horse was pulled to the ground before being chased to its stable.

"It was a horrific sustained attack which terrified both the horse and its rider. She was forced to get off the horse because it was so frantic and tried to beat the dog off, but it wouldn't let go."

"The dog then continued to bite and rip at the distraught horse, chasing it back to the stables a mile away. It even managed to climb up in the stables and jump on the horse's back. It was like the

law of the jungle. I have never seen anything like it."

Eventually the horse managed to knock the dog off and kicked it over, almost knocking it senseless, but the dog got up, shook itself and ran off. It was later destroyed.

"I have never seen a horse in such a state, it was sweating and bleeding profusely and was in a terrified state by the time I had managed to lock it away from this dog," Mr Van Praagh added.

"At the moment it is too early to say if or how well he will recover. It was a horrific experience and he is clearly badly hurt mentally as well as physically."

"Jessica is shell-shocked by it all. I'm just thankful there were people in the yard when the horse was chased back to help us deal with the situation."

He bought Robert III a few months ago and had had him at stables on the island for only six weeks. "Now he won't race again," he said. "It's very sad when you consider what a good cross-country horse he was."

A police spokesman said statements had been taken over the incident and officers were still investigating what had happened. He confirmed that the dog had been destroyed and that police were appealing for independent witnesses to the incident.



Jessica Long and Harry Van Praagh with Robert III

Japanese storm in English cuppa

By EMMA WILKINS

JAPANESE tea-drinkers are developing an unlikely passion for the English cuppa with a digestive biscuit. Customers at 30 supermarkets in Tokyo and Osaka are paying up to three times the British retail price for a chainstore's brand of Earl Grey tea. English breakfast tea and digestives.

The tea-time treats, which are being endorsed by David Wright, the British Ambassador in Tokyo, have been on sale for four weeks in Japan, where the tea ceremony is one of the country's most ancient traditions.

Hiroshi Kato, a Japanese businessman who lives in England, said his countrymen were passionate about

English tea rituals. "There is a big debate at the moment in Japan over whether you should put cream or jam first on scones — it is quite a serious subject," he said.

The question of whether milk or tea should be poured first was equally problematic, Mr Kato said. "Japanese tea is drunk on its own. But when they are drinking English tea, Japanese people like to use milk or sometimes lemon. I prefer Lapsang Souchong."

The fondness for tea and biscuits was part of a drift towards Western food, including burgers, pizzas and dairy products, Mr Kato said. "Japanese people are becoming increasingly Westernised in their diet, which includes the fast foods but also cheese,

cream and yoghurt. My family in Japan loves biscuits — especially shortbread — and I always take some back with me when I visit."

The tea-time items are being sold by Waitrose, which negotiated a deal with the Daimaru department-store group of Japan in December. The 49 own-branded lines include dry spaghetti, tinned fruit and jam. A Waitrose spokesman said the English tea-time items appeared to be the most popular.

Last year the United Kingdom exported £107 million-worth of food to Japan — a 45 per cent increase on the previous year. Food From Britain, a partly government-funded marketing organisation, opened an office in Tokyo last October.



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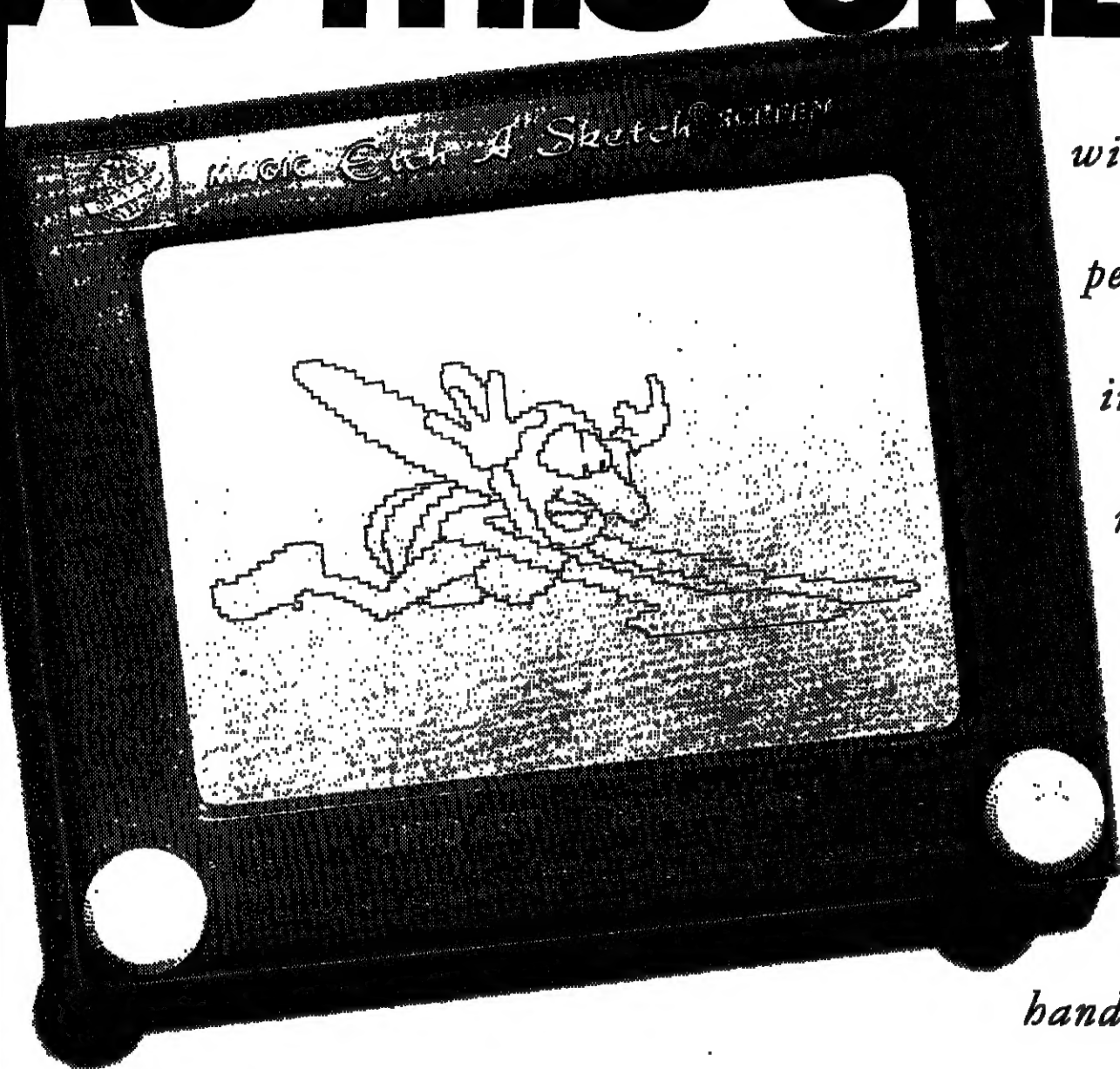
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Frederick acted alone, appeal judges are told

West 'was convicted on non-existent evidence'

By RICHARD DUCE

ROSEMARY WEST was convicted as a serial killer on "tenuous and non-existent" evidence, when the facts suggested that her husband Frederick was solely responsible, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Rosemary West, 42, was also the victim of sensational media reporting, which meant she was incapable of getting a fair trial on ten charges of murder, it was said. Her lawyers are seeking leave to appeal against her convictions at Winchester Crown Court last November on the ground that they are unsafe and unsatisfactory.

West, 42, exercised her right not to appear in court yesterday. She is currently in Durham jail after her convictions last November at Winchester Crown Court.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for West, said there had been evidence at her trial that her husband had begun a series of rapes, assaults and abductions of young women when his wife was only six years old.

"That suggestion, that Fred West on the evidence could well have been the sole perpetrator of the ten murders, is the hook upon which the defence hang their objections."

The murders of which Mrs West was convicted "could have been done by Frederick West on his own without any knowing participation by his

THE eldest son of Rosemary West said yesterday that she had a comfortable life in prison, where she is studying for an English degree. West, right, is said to claim that most inmates at Durham jail are frightened of her reputation as Britain's most prolific female serial killer.

Stephen West, 22, a builder from Gloucester, told Independent Radio News: "She is happy and quite content and has found a lot of friends. This is disappointing, really. I wonder if you can call it punishment at all?"

"The only thing they have taken away is her freedom. She feels everybody fears her and she says



nobody has been nasty towards her at all." Mr West said his mother was reading the classics, attending seminars and working 40 hours a week making toys.

wife. Other than the sheer horror of the discovery of the remains of the victims, in this case the most striking feature was the dearth of evidence to connect Rosemary West to these crimes."

West, a mother of eight, was convicted of luring seven women back to her home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, where they were then sexually abused and murdered before being buried in the cellar.

Three other charges related to the murder of her daughter Heather, 16, stepdaughter Charmaine, 8, and a lodger, Shirley Robinson. Mr Fergu-

son argued that the Crown should not have been allowed to present so-called "similar fact" evidence about Mrs West's sexual proclivities — including testimony from three women about sadomasochism and bondage and "evidence of her lifestyle and rather lax conduct sexually".

It was accepted at the trial that this evidence had no relevance to three of the murder counts. Yet Mr Justice Manton refused to sever the trial on those charges from the other seven. The judge, having admitted the evidence, failed to discharge the "heavy bur-

den" on him to give adequate directions to the jury on how it should approach that evidence, Mr Ferguson told Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell and Mr Justice Newman.

Mr Ferguson said pre-trial newspaper reports, including a claim that West stood to receive up to £10 million from the story of her life with her husband, had made it impossible for her to have a fair trial. "The House of Horror epithet had firmly attached itself to coverage of the trial," he said. There were "offensive, highly prejudicial" accounts in the media, some from those who were to be witnesses at the trial, which described Rosemary West as a nymphomaniac or a prostitute.

One article, by a woman later to give evidence, was headed "Kinky Sex at House of Horror" and described three-in-a-bed sex sessions. "It was full of lurid detail, most of it directed towards Rosemary West and not the husband," Mr Ferguson said.

It was a cause for concern, not only to the defence and trial judge but to the Crown, that witnesses or potential witnesses entered into agreements with the media to provide stories for money, he said.

If the court grants leave to appeal, that appeal would follow immediately before the three judges. The hearing continues today.

Female God faces Satan of two halves

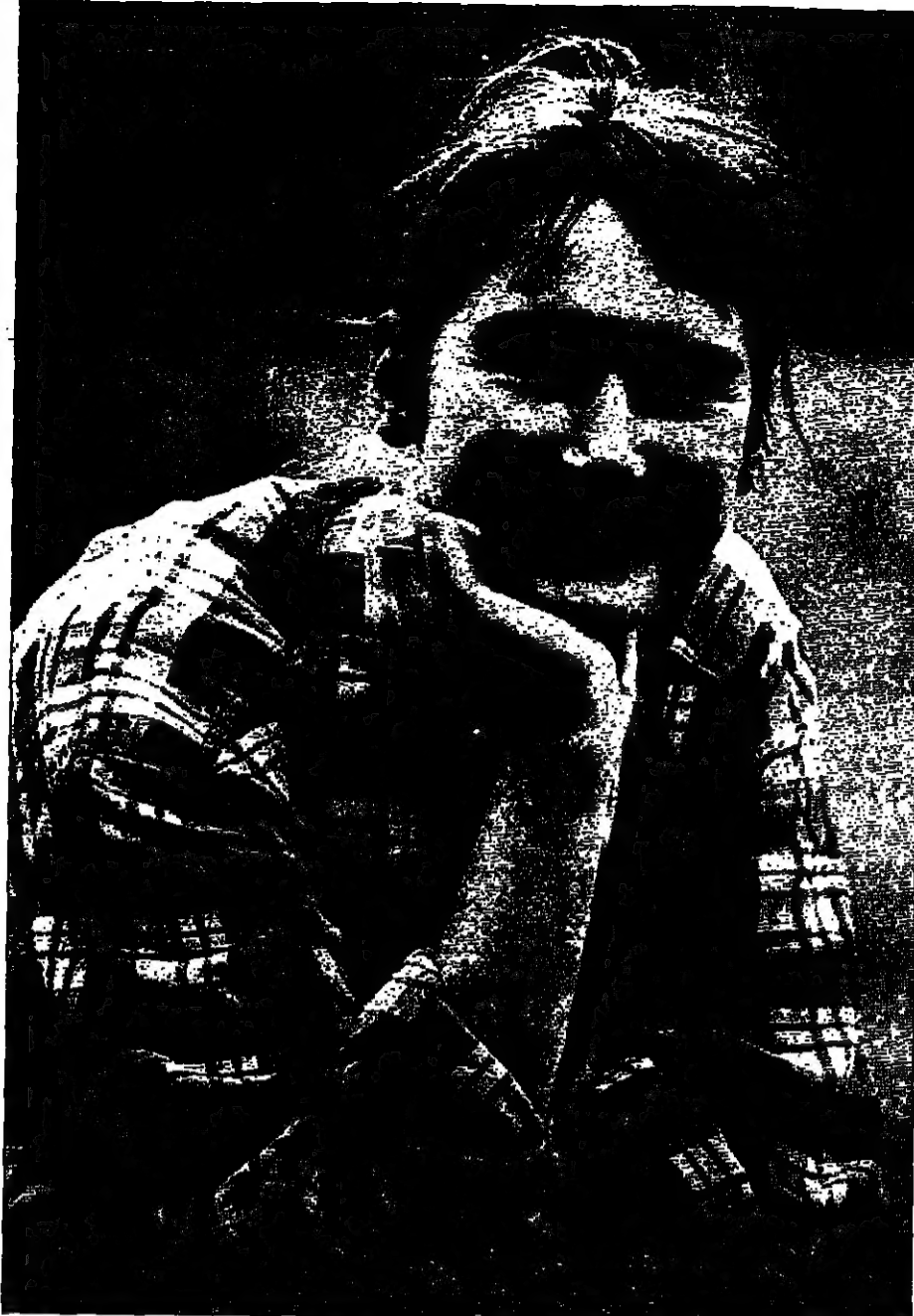
THE choice of a woman to play God in the York Mystery Plays led the city's archdeacon to comment that it was "political correctness gone mad". Now the director has cast a woman as the Devil, albeit with a male counterpart.

Kate Thomson, a bookseller, and Dave Parkinson, a multimedia consultant, will share satanic duties at the Theatre Royal in June.

John Doyle, who last month cast 63-year-old Ruth Ford as God, said a Satan of both sexes was right for the play. "I'm not saying God is a woman, but God is being played by a woman, and I'm not saying Satan is a man or a woman, only that it's being played by a man and a woman because it's the best way to do it in this production."

The two Satans are the final roles to be announced for the plays, which date back to medieval times and were revived in 1951. They are performed every four years. Originally there were 48 plays performed in wagons in the streets of York, but they have been edited and rewritten into a three-hour version for the stage.

Ms Thomson's role is very different from her last appearance four years ago, when she played the Virgin Mary, a part previously filled by Dame Judi Dench and Mary Ure.



Kate Thomson will share with a man the role of the Devil in the Mystery Plays

Classes for parents help children too

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

FAMILY reading classes were hailed yesterday as an answer to Britain's growing literacy problems. Researchers examining four Government-sponsored projects said the progress made by parents and children learning together constituted "one of the most successful interventions we have ever encountered".

Within six months, half of those expected to struggle at school had ceased to cause concern. More than 360 parents in poor areas of Cardiff, Norfolk, Liverpool and North Tyneside attended intensive 12-week courses with children aged between three and six. Both parents and children had below-average vocabulary and reading skills.

By the end of the courses, the parents had improved their reading scores by 5 per cent and their writing by 10 per cent. Twelve weeks later, barely more than a third of the children were considered likely to be held back by poor reading, compared with two thirds at the start.

The concept, imported from the United States, was adapted by the Basic Skills Agency with £3 million of government money. At a conference in London to discuss the results of the two-year experiment, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, indicated her support for an expanded scheme. Mrs Shephard said she could give

no immediate commitment to increase Government funding for family literacy, but added that she was "highly enthusiastic" about the scheme. "If this is the way to break through the cycle of deprivation and other problems, it has to be taken very seriously."

One in six adults is a poor reader, and ministers have launched a series of initiatives to improve the teaching of basic skills. Mrs Shephard said family initiatives would complement the growth of preschool education next year.

Academics evaluating the four projects found that the costs compared favourably with other literacy schemes. Dr Greg Brooks, of the National Foundation for Educational Research, said the pilot



Shephard: enthusiastic about reading project

projects should be extended because family learning could raise standards nationally.

Classes took place in schools and adult education centres, mainly attracting mothers. Many parents went on to further studies on their own behalf, and felt more able to help their children at home and later at school.

The approach has been taken up by large firms such as Ford, where the predominantly male workforce has increased the number of fathers taking part. Sue Southwood, who runs classes at the company's Dagenham plant, said that many of the men felt uncomfortable in their children's schools and preferred a work-based course.

Alan Wells, the agency's director, said most of the parents attending classes were anxious to help their children to read but lacked the skills and confidence. The project would not solve Britain's literacy problems on its own but it could make a significant contribution.

When a BBC television programme advertised the agency's information pack on family literacy, more than 300,000 people responded, twice the expected number. Mr Wells said: "Family literacy works. It reaches children who might otherwise fail. It starts early, when there's most impact, and it lasts."

One in seven teachers assaulted

ONE in seven teachers in Manchester has been assaulted by pupils during the past year, according to a trade union survey. In the city's secondary schools, a quarter of teachers have felt threatened by verbal abuse.

The findings have prompted a motion to the annual

conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers next month, calling for legislation to force schools to invest in "adequate and appropriate safety and surveillance systems to protect staff and deter intruders".

The number of assaults on teachers has risen consistent-

ly in recent years. Hazel Spence-Young, 48, a teacher in Coventry, will describe today, as part of a campaign against classroom violence, how a nine-year-old boy hit her on the chin while she was trying to persuade him to rejoin a lesson. She later accepted £82,500 damages.

Izzard woos young voters

THE comedian Eddie Izzard has joined the Rock the Vote campaign, designed to encourage 18 to 24-year-olds to go to the polls at the next general election.

Izzard will host a fundraising show, starring Steve Coogan, at the Shepherd's Bush Empire in London on April 10. Other performers appearing around the country in the campaign are Harry Hill, Mark Lamarr, Donna McPhail and Gayle Tuesday. The non-partisan group was launched last month.

CORRECTION

The top 100 businesses started with the help of the Prince's Trust (report, March 12) have an annual turnover of £50 million.

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Among the actors protesting at the National Theatre yesterday over the possible loss of benefit were, left to right, Ann Mitchell, Saskia Wickham, Susannah York, Tim Pigott-Smith, Charlotte Cornwell and Samantha Bond

Stars speak out against loss of dole for 'resting' colleagues

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SUSANNAH YORK and Nigel Hawthorne were among leading actors who protested yesterday at government plans to deprive the profession of unemployment benefit when "resting".

They argue that if actors are prevented from claiming benefit

between roles, many talented performers could be forced out of the business. They say that actors need all the support they can get to survive in a profession in which 25 per cent of the 42,000 Equity members did not work last year, and only 12 per cent were employed for more than 40 weeks.

Equity has learnt that the Department of Social Security is

proposing to prevent actors from paying the higher National Insurance contributions that entitle them to unemployment benefit.

Ms York said: "For actors, unemployment benefit, statutory sick pay, maternity pay and industrial injuries benefit are not luxury benefits, they are lifelines which fill in the inevitable gaps in employment which occur during

the ups and downs of working life." She said that almost every actor suffered unemployment at some stage and she was no exception.

Mr Hawthorne recalled that long before he found international success he endured years of humiliation standing in line to collect his dole money. "I'd often see stars, well-known faces. It was

known as The Club. People would say, 'See you at The Club.'"

Referring to a scheme, beginning in October, for out-of-work actors to retrain on JobCentre Restart programmes as gardeners and bricklayers, Mr Hawthorne said: "There are all sorts of schemes to push them down mines and do work in the daytime. But actors have to remain

available so that they can attend meetings and auditions. Otherwise, the work doesn't come."

Tim Pigott-Smith, who is appearing in *Mary Stuart* at the National Theatre in London, where the protest was centred, commented: "It is a nightmare keeping alive in our business. This is a philistine and vengeful piece of legislation."

Martin Brown, a spokesman for Equity, said: "The majority of actors, singers and dancers currently pay higher National Insurance contributions for the right to be entitled to non-means-tested benefits when they are out of work. But the Government could strip them of this right."

No one from the DSS was available to comment.

Stowaway invaders threaten wildlife

By NICK NUTTALL

ALIEN species, including a Chinese crab and a Japanese worm, are threatening wildlife around Britain's coasts after being dumped by ships, a government report has found.

The aliens, stowaways in the ballast of tankers and bulk carriers, are being linked with diseases harmful to shellfish and humans. Others are multiplying in harbours and along shorelines, altering the delicate natural balance and ousting native species by taking over their food and breeding grounds. The Japanese worm is being blamed for fouling boats and harbour installations in places including Southampton Water.

The scale of the invasion has been chronicled by Dr Clare Eno of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Government's wildlife adviser. Of 53 alien species recorded, 30 are estimated to have been brought to Britain by shipping. Most have arrived since the 1970s, after the increase in supertankers and bulk carriers.

The invaders include the Chinese mitten crab, a native of eastern Asia which arrived in 1935, a coastal cord grass from America which has become a costly weed after crossing with a native grass, and a giant volcano-shaped barnacle that can strip the paint from supertankers.

Others include species of phytoplankton that form toxic blooms around the coast and suffocate fish and poison shellfish. They have been traced to the Indian and Pacific oceans and the China seas.

A link between outbreaks of cholera and the movement of ships has increased concern. Botulism, which can make shellfish a health risk, has also recently been detected in ballast water.

The International Maritime Organisation committee charged with environmental protection will meet in London in July. A spokesman said yesterday that cracking down on ballast-dumping was high on the agenda. "We are looking at ways of making the voluntary rules mandatory."

Bottomley orders tests on TV clean-up chip

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION into proposals to fit all new television sets with electronic scramblers to block violent or sexually explicit programmes has been ordered by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

She gave a warning, however, that the "V-chip" would not excuse parents from controlling their children's viewing. Parents needed to be reminded of their responsibilities, she said. "The off-button is always at their disposal. If the V-chip can help, then I would welcome it."

In the wake of the Dunblane shootings, calls have increased for Britain to follow the lead of the United States where President Clinton last month ordered that all new televisions be fitted with the chip from 1998. The European Parliament has endorsed the chip in principle.

The V-chip is a computer chip fitted into the television set circuitry. It picks up signals broadcast with each programme, carrying a classification. Programmes might be classified on a scale of one to five, with one representing the "safest" programmes and five the most sexually explicit and

violent. Parents can programme their television sets to block all shows classified above a certain level. When a programme exceeding that level is transmitted, the signal is scrambled. The V-chip would be operated by a switch on the television remote control handset and would probably be activated by a four-digit code known only to the viewer.

David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, is to put down an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill if Mrs Bottomley fails to legislate. He claims to have support from MPs from all parties. "I think that that will put pressure on broadcasters to produce less violent programmes."

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said yesterday, however, that there had been insufficient debate on the V-chip. "No one must believe that the V-chip provides either a quick or comprehensive solution to the controversial issues of standards in broadcasting, for example, video rentals."

The V-chip will be discussed at a meeting hosted by the Department of National Heritage next Tuesday attended by



Bottomley: emphasised need for parental control

advertisers, broadcasters, manufacturers, regulators and viewers.

Consumer groups have claimed that the V-chip is unworkable. Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, described it as "a complete cop-out". Mrs Whitehouse said: "The V-chip will undermine the existing system of controls, which require broadcasters not to screen anything that might offend against taste or decency. It will simply give broadcasters more licence — they will say, 'The V-

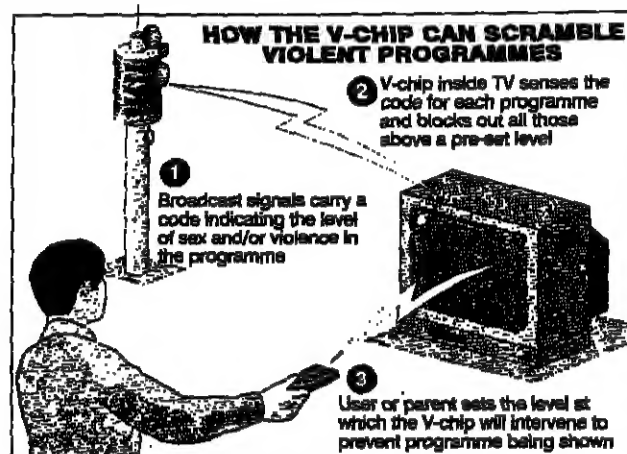
chip is there, so we can put out anything we like.'"

Jocelyn Hay, of the Voice of the Viewer and Listener group, said politicians would be disappointed if they expected the V-chip to provide a panacea for society's ills. More education about the use of television was needed. "Parents should watch television with their children and discuss with them what is suitable."

Broadcasters are also cautious. Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC-Television, said that the V-chip would make parents share the responsibility for monitoring their children's viewing. But he added: "There is a danger that some broadcasters may use the 'protection' of the V-chip to transmit even stronger material."

Hugh Feltor, director of the British Radio and Electronic Equipment Manufacturers Association, said that the American V-chip system could not work in this country because it uses a part of the television spectrum which is fully utilised by Teletext and Ceefax. "We have still to find a way of making it work in Britain and throughout the whole of Europe," he said.

Leading article, page 17



Sexy and serious items may be lost together

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE V-chip, a Canadian invention promoted as a panacea for the ill-effects of television, has been endorsed by the White House, Congress and many American parents.

In Canada, the V-chip and its accompanying ratings system is being field-tested in 130 homes. Including that of Sheila Coppins, the Heritage Minister.

The ratings for violence run from one — comedy violence — to five — extreme brutality. The system is designed to let parents be their own family's television watchdog. But the experiments have proved that broadcasters have had to make difficult judgments about elements of

each programme. The list of what needs to be rated is as long as the night's viewing.

Each individual must determine what is objectionable. Television talk shows, for example, which are attractive to teenagers but not to their parents, are invariably rated zero for violence. Often, though, they are given a level one rating for language and sex.

These shows are generally recommended for 16 and over and so the best hope for a parent is to set the chip at a level which would cut out adult and parental guidance viewing. As a result films which many would consider useful to their children's education are also lost.

Failure to cut fishing fleet 'has cost £12m'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

EMMA BONINO, the European Fisheries Commissioner, accused Britain yesterday of allowing its fishing fleet to double in tonnage when it should have reduced it.

Speaking at the end of a tour of English and Scottish fishing ports, Signora Bonino said the Government had forfeited £12 million in aid from the European Union for fleet modernisation because it had not met reduction targets which most other member states had achieved.

Figures provided by the Government show the British fleet increased in size from 116,000 tonnes in 1986 to 212,000 tonnes in 1991, Signora Bonino said. "Since then, according to provisional figures, the tonnage has risen further to about 235,000 tonnes."

The Ministry of Agriculture said the method of calculating the fleet's total tonnage had been changed since 1986 and that Signora Bonino had not been comparing like with like. "The figure of 116,000 tonnes excluded boats under ten metres in length, boats that were commercially inactive and boats from the Channel Islands, whereas all these are included in the latest figures," a ministry spokesman said.

"If these categories of boats are included, the figure for 1986 becomes 206,000 tonnes, which is the same as the current level. We do not know how the commissioner arrived at the current figure of 235,000 tonnes, which we reject."

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, welcomed an offer by Signora Bonino to discuss ways of lessening the problem of "quota hoppers" — foreign-owned (mainly Spanish) vessels which register in Britain to claim a share of the fish catch allocated to the British fleet.

Signora Bonino said: "I cannot ban quota hoppers but it is my strong belief that there is room for reducing their impact provided any action that is taken is non-discriminatory."

Monsters oust Trocadero's Edwardian ghosts

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Trocadero, which once symbolised the glamour and naughtiness of Victorian and Edwardian London society, is to be reborn as the world's largest "futuristic" theme project.

From August the long-vanished sounds of string orchestras playing Strauss and Lehar, and of music-hall artists belting out slightly risqué invitations to dinner-jacketed adventures, will be replaced by the technological magic of 21st-century Japan.

Where waltzers once floated among the potted palms, on the corner of Piccadilly and Shaftesbury Avenue, their great-grandchildren will be able to enjoy virtual reality

rides through outer space and the ocean depths, encountering the Beast in Darkness and the Mad Bazooka to a bombardment of sounds, sights and smells.

The joint venture of Trocadero plc and Sega Enterprises of Japan will cost £45 million and, at 10,000 sq ft, will occupy more space than the Albert Hall. It is expected to attract 1.75 million visitors, create 160 jobs in its first year, give a long-overdue facelift to a famous corner of the West End and to boost tourism. The scheme was welcomed yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, and by the British Tourist Authority.

In the early 16th century the site was owned by Eton Col-

lege and the Mercers Company, and was sold to a tailor in about 1612. The name Piccadilly comes from part of a hem of a garment.

In 1623 the land was sold to a colonel who built houses and shops and during the late 18th and early 19th centuries the buildings housed a circus, a theatre and exhibitions.

In 1849 Robert Bignell opened a casino and nightclub known as the Argyle Rooms. He was forced to close them in 1878 because they had acquired a dubious reputation, but built the Trocadero Palace, a music hall where the entertainers included Marie Lloyd, Dan Leno and Charles Chaplin senior.

In 1895 the main building was converted into a restaur-



A 1921 impression of Trocadero after-theatre supper

rant by J. Lyons & Co. but the Trocadero was a more upmarket establishment where gargantuan lunches were served and where families gathered for Christmas

treats. In the evenings more sophisticated entertainment was offered in the form of cabarets devised by the impresario Sir Charles Cochran. From then on it was largely

downhill. The elegant restaurant with its black-tied patrons gave way to a bowling alley, shops and cafés, and it was not until 1984 that the complex reverted to single ownership.

Electricity Supply Nominees, a pension fund, opened a shopping development but three years later sold it to Brent Walker, the property group which subsequently went into receivership. Two years ago the site and the adjoining London Pavilion were acquired by the Burford Group.

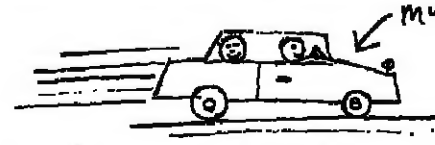
The new theme project will occupy the original Trocadero and three adjoining buildings, spread over seven floors, which in recent years consisted mainly of empty offices.

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Mergers aim to improve accuracy

Revised test targets may close cervical smear laboratories

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

UP TO one in five cervical smear laboratories faces closure or merger under measures to improve the accuracy of the screening programme.

Targets announced yesterday by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, set a minimum number of smears to be processed by each laboratory to ensure that screeners have sufficient expertise to detect abnormalities.

The targets, which also cover the proportion of women screened and the speed of results, are designed to restore confidence in the service which has been dented by a series of scandals in which smears have been wrongly taken or misdiagnosed. Last month Kent and Canterbury Hospital said that it was re-examining 70,000 smears taken over five years because of fears that some abnormalities had been missed.

Figures released by the Health Department last month showed a five-fold variation in the proportion of smears judged abnormal in different areas. In Huntingdon 10.9 per cent of smears were rated abnormal, compared with 1.8 per cent in Hillingdon.

The range is too wide to be accounted for by variations in the incidence of the disease and means that some women at risk of cancer are being



Calman: wants to cut regional test variations

missed while others are being needlessly worried. Laboratories have been told they should expect to find 4 to 7 per cent of smears with borderline or mild abnormalities and 1.2 to 2 per cent with moderate or severe abnormalities.

The new targets, contained in three documents published by the NHS cervical screening programme yesterday, set an annual minimum of 15,000 smears for laboratories and 3,000 per screener.

Of the 188 laboratories in England, 34 screened fewer than 15,000 smears last year, though some of these are specialist laboratories receiving a high proportion of abnormal smears.

Julietta Patrick, co-ordinator of the national programme, said: "If you don't

have a sufficient throughput you will not see a sufficient number of abnormalities to keep your skills up to date." The targets set a maximum of 7,500 smears per screener per year, to protect against errors caused by fatigue.

Dr Jane Johnson, chairman of the British Society of Clinical Cytology and a member of the working party that produced the targets, said screeners should deal with eight smears an hour for no more than four hours a day with a half-hour break, spending the rest of the day doing other tasks.

The targets also specify that at least 80 per cent of women aged 25-64 should be screened once every five years. All women should receive their results in writing within six weeks, with 80 per cent receiving them within four weeks. Between 85 and 95 per cent of abnormalities must be detected at the first screen.

Sir Kenneth Calman said: "We want to improve the quality and reduce the variation across the country in the cervical screening service."

The screening programme offers a three or five-yearly test to women aged 20 to 64. About 4,000 cases of cancer and 18,000 cases of pre-cancer are detected annually. There were 1,369 deaths from cervical cancer in 1994, most among women who had never been screened. The scheme is estimated to save 1,000 to 2,000 lives a year.



Peter Phillips embracing his mother, the Princess Royal, yesterday during a seven-a-side schoolboy rugby tournament at Rosslyn Park, west London. The 18-year-old was playing for Gordonstoun. Report, page 44

MacKenzie accepts apology

MacKenzie accepts apology

Kelvin MacKenzie, head of Mirror Group Television, accepted an apology at the High Court for claims that Rupert Murdoch dismissed him from BSkyB for incompetence. George Carman, QC, for Mr MacKenzie, said he left voluntarily. Business Magazines (UK), Tom Rubythorn, former editor of BusinessAge, and journalist Anil Bhoyrul accepted their report was inaccurate.

Flowers taken

Three people were arrested after flowers were taken on Saturday from a fatal accident scene. They had been left at the spot where WPC Philippa Parish, 29, was injured when a police car hit a wall while answering a burglar alarm in Winchester last Wednesday. She died later.

Hijacker banned

A student who hijacked a bus and passengers was banned from driving for two years and given 100 hours of community service by Bow Street magistrates in London. Matthew Watkins, 23, of Kennington, south London, admitted drink-driving and driving without insurance.

Double trouble

Paul Brown, 25, of Knowsley, Merseyside, a remand prisoner who went on the run for 22 months after changing clothes with his identical twin in a prison visiting room, was jailed for 18 months at Liverpool. His brother had been jailed for 12 months.

Hostages moved

The four Britons being held by separatist rebels in Irian Jaya are being moved from place to place almost every day, an Indonesian hostage said after being freed. One of them, Anna Melvor, 20, "had to be carried because of sheer fatigue", he said.

Cow charged

Two men dressed as a pantomime cow charged through a cordon on the Newbury bypass site, magistrates at Andover, Hampshire, were told. They denied aggravated trespass and were bailed to reappear on April 14.

Customs warns of heroin epidemic as smuggling grows

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is facing a heroin epidemic, customs investigators said yesterday as they pronounced record seizures of the drug last year.

The 80 per cent increase in finds in 1995 heightens fears that the drug is once again becoming fashionable among young people. Abuse of heroin has been rising for the past five years and investigators believe traffickers are attempting to flood Britain with imports smuggled from south-west Asia.

The drug has become more easily accessible because it can be smoked rather than injected. Doses of heroin are sold as paper "wraps", in which the drug is screwed into a tiny, tight bundle. Each wrap sells on the streets for £10.

Speaking at the launch of national police and customs

HEROIN SEIZURES 1991-1995			
1991	1992	1993	1994
449,395kg	620,552kg	1,117,524kg	1,117,524kg
1991	1992	1993	1994
408,771kg	518,142kg	1,117,524kg	1,117,524kg
DRUG SEIZURES 1995			
DRUG	KLLOGRAMS	VALUE	
Cocaine	940,702	£109,487,712.80	
Heroin	32,732,206	£2,321,500,000.00	
Cannabis resin	39,778,228	£135,238,175.20	
Ecstasy	543,625	£29,572,004.00	
Amphetamine	1,117,524	£1,117,524.00	
Opium	4,617	£45,170.00	

drug figures for 1995, Dick Kellaway, head of customs investigations, said the heroin threat was "potentially the most serious drug problem that all of us face."

"All the evidence points to a

massive increase in the volume of heroin being targeted on the UK." The drugs seized last year were worth £115 million.

Seizures of cocaine fell to 940 kilograms last year, down

from 2,205kg in 1994. However, if three large finds are taken separately, customs officers say cocaine figures are still going up.

Police forces reported a 37 per cent rise in heroin finds. It is the most frequently seized class A drug; last year it was found in more than a third of class A drug raids or arrests.

Mr Kellaway said heroin was being imported to create a market, rather than to meet existing demand. Smugglers made more money from Britain because the price was higher than in the rest of Europe.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons and chairman of a ministerial group on drug misuse, said the Government intended to stop an increase in heroin abuse. "Britain is not awash with drugs, but we have to recognise that reducing the supply of illegal substances ultimately depends on

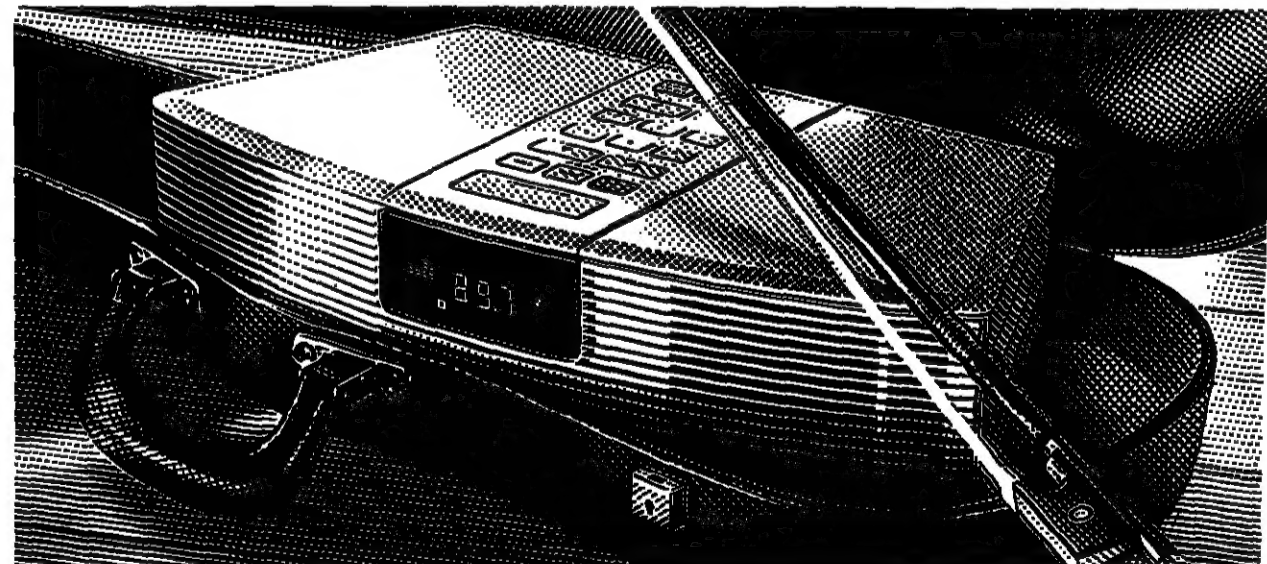
reducing the demand for them." Tom Sackville, a junior Home Office minister, said the Government was planning tougher sentences for dealers who were repeatedly convicted. He said: "Those who try to subvert our children have to be punished."

Seizures of ecstasy rose by 18 per cent from about 460kg to 544kg, the equivalent of 21 million doses. Customs inves-

tigators also found a record 55 tonnes of cannabis.

Overall in 1995 Customs seized its largest amount of drugs ever. Officers uncovered 55.6 tonnes of drugs worth £457 million, compared with 51 tonnes in 1994. A further £421 million worth of drugs was found abroad. In all, customs officers believe they prevented drugs worth £1.2 billion entering Britain.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police and head of a police committee on drug problems, said ecstasy finds rose 50 per cent: "We have an acceptance of drugs ... particularly among 'rave' users there seems to be a belief that what they are doing is not wrong. That misunderstanding is something we have got to get through."



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183 drivers are caught speeding in one hour

By KEVIN EASON

MOTORISTS driving on a narrow carriageway flanked by roadwork cones have been caught speeding at the rate of three a minute.

Kent Police set up a camera on a stretch of road with a 40mph limit and caught 183 drivers speeding in an hour. One driver was snapped doing 86mph through the section of the A2 near Dover on Saturday.

PC Ken Usher, who was back with his laser camera on the same stretch of road yesterday, was horrified as cars hurried through the coned-off carriageway within a few feet of workmen, ignoring the temporary speed signs. He said: "It is quite incredible that motorists are oblivious to the fact that they are driving in an area where there are people working and whose lives could be endangered by reckless driving."

"Cars were passing me every 20 seconds breaking the law. Those drivers are either irresponsible or do not appreciate the fact that they are putting people in danger of their lives."

PC Usher's camera is one of the latest devices employed by police in the war against speeding drivers. Even at the rate of three cars a minute, the camera can record the speed, time and licence plate details of each vehicle.

As a result, all 183 drivers caught over the weekend will be notified by police of their offences, be fined £40 and have three points endorsed on their licences.

Labour and Tories promise tough campaign in pursuit of Tamworth victory

By-election battle that neither side can afford to lose

By ALICE THOMPSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Tories are obsessed with the need to win the Staffordshire South East by-election next month because this is where their illustrious prime minister Sir Robert Peel launched his Tamworth manifesto and created the modern Conservative Party.

Labour is equally desperate to win, to prove that it is the true inheritor of Sir Robert's populist legacy. But what both parties seemed to have forgotten is that Peel's other great achievement was to split the Tories on the issue of the corn laws and put the party into opposition for a generation. Failure at Tamworth on April 11 could have dire consequences for either side.

If the Tories lose, their majority in the Commons will fall to one. If they lose badly, Tony Blair will have stolen not only their birthplace but their middle-class clothes.

If Labour fails to overturn the Tories' 7,192 majority, it will be the first government by-election victory in eight years. It would boost the Tories' confidence in their ability to achieve an unprecedented fifth term, which would force new Labour into the wilderness. When John Prescott, the deputy Labour



Peel: illustrious Tamworth Tory

leader, launched his party's campaign he referred to "the most important by-election of this Parliament".

The Tories are fighting an aggressive campaign. On the wall of their headquarters is the message: "Let's go out and KILL Labour today."

They have managed to find a man as tough as the 18-stone Sir David Lightbown, nicknamed The Terminator when he was a senior whip. His premature death precipitated the by-election.

Jimmy James, 44, is a leaner

version, an immaculately polished former major in the Royal Artillery who loves difficult questions and relishes a good fight. He is also the first Tory by-election candidate for years who has not had to be chaperoned everywhere he goes. He became a Tory on the day he left the Army five years ago and immediately lost his political virginity fighting against Dennis Skinner in Bolsover.

Mr James, who is now a charity fundraising consultant, says that he is not as ardent a right-wing populist as Sir David had been. He is against a return to capital punishment and is pragmatic on Europe. His few real right-wing foibles include an obsession with the family. He believes that the Government has gone too far with its divorce reforms, and he strongly opposes allowing homosexuals to serve in the Armed Forces.

He is convinced that the Tories will win. He points to 12 council by-election victories in the past three months and says that voters no longer shut doors in canvasser's faces. The "feel-good" factor, he says, is coming back.

Tamworth has certainly



The candidates: Brian Jenkins, Labour; Jennette Davy, Liberal Democrat; and Jimmy James, Conservative

seen its fortunes improve in recent years. The castle town was once the capital of Mercia. Then for generations it was in decline, famous only for its breed of pig and for manufacturing Reliant Robins.

But it is now enjoying a new popularity, with its vast Snow Dome, shopping centre and an easy commuting journey to Birmingham. It has lower unemployment and fewer single-parent families than the national average and a higher

level of home ownership than Cheltenham or Tunbridge Wells.

Brian Jenkins, 53, the Labour candidate, claims some of the success for his council's innovative ideas. He has been a councillor, deputy leader, leader and mayor over ten years and knows every paving stone of the town.

Mr Jenkins, a lecturer in communications and media studies, is eloquent about new Labour. "I don't think this

Government is remotely caring or has the people's interests at heart," he said. "It has reverted to type, looking after the privileged few like in the 19th century."

He is basing his campaign on "Tory lies" and tax increases, and with Labour's previous record he should easily win this by-election.

Both parties are united in their horror of the Liberal Democrat candidate, Jennette

Davy, who seems to have given up already.

"My overall objective is to get the Tories out," she said. "If we can't have a Liberal Democrat MP, and if electing a Labour MP brings forward the date of a general election, that is maybe a price worth paying."

General election, 1992: D. L. Lightbown, C. 39,180; B. Jenkins, Lab. 21,988; N. Penlington, Lib Dem. 5,540; majority 7,192

Ministers facing defeat on divorce

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces a Commons defeat over plans to remove an amendment from its divorce reform laws committing ministers to early legislation on splitting pension rights for divorced couples.

Last month, after a successful cross-party rebellion in the Lords, the Government was forced to include an amendment so that pension rights could be shared on divorce. Ministers have since floated a compromise deal in which they would agree to include laws to split pensions in the next Queen's Speech in return for the amendment being removed from the Family Law Bill.

But senior Labour party sources made clear last night that they were likely to oppose any move which delayed the legislation.

Party sources fear that if the amendment were removed it would be easy for the Government to renege on its promise. They also argue that Labour might not have the legislative time to introduce changes itself in the first year of a Labour government.

Labour is expected to give its MPs a free vote on the second reading of the Bill, when it returns to the Commons next Monday. The party supports the measure in principle but believes that much of it involves matters of conscience. The Shadow Cabinet will make a decision tomorrow.

Tory business managers are expected to put the party's MPs on a two-line whip which would minimise the impact of any Tory rebellion. Several rightwing Tory MPs have already expressed their concern about some aspects of the bill which they fear makes divorce easier.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons questions to Westminster and the Attorney General, debates on an employment rights bill, HMO privatisation, Education (School Premises) Regulations, housing investment programme changes, in the Lords: Chemical Weapons Bill, report on reform of EU treaty and on responsible regulator, Central Government Development Corporation, (Joint and Constitutional) Order.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to social security ministers and the Prime Minister, Nursery Education and Grant-Maintained Schools Bill, backbench debate on home and abroad ownership, Irish Lords: Broadcasting Bill, third reading; prevention of terrorism measures.

Major to resist Unionist poll call

By NICHOLAS WOOD
AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR will defy the Ulster Unionists and headline Tory backbenchers today over their blueprint for elections to the proposed Northern Ireland peace forum.

It is understood that intensive talks between the Government and Ulster's political parties have failed to find an agreement on which to base the elections. But the Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues on the Northern Ireland Cabinet committee,

meeting today in Downing Street, will confound recent speculation by drawing back from unqualified endorsement of the Unionist call for a ballot centred on parliamentary constituencies.

They intend to use today's meeting to draw up "hybrid" proposals to be announced after the meeting of the full Cabinet on Thursday. But ministers' refusal to bow to the Unionists could provoke a reaction from Tory MPs worried about another "sell-out" to the nationalists.

Yesterday John Taylor, dep-

uty leader of the Ulster Unionists, said that all-party talks in Northern Ireland would "stumble" if London and Dublin tried to impose an agenda for talks due to start on June 10. On his return from St Patrick's Day celebrations in Washington, Mr Taylor accused the two governments of acting "with total irresponsibility" after outlining terms for the discussions last week.

The key items on today's agenda are the voting system for elections to the forum; the link between the forum and the all-party talks planned to

start on June 10; the need to ensure backing from Dublin and Labour for the next set of proposals; calls from the nationalist SDLP for a peace referendum in Ireland to demonstrate popular support for negotiations leading to a lasting settlement.

Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, are said to be in no doubt about the difficulties facing them. But they believe that they might yet devise a package that makes enough concessions to all sides.

NEC accused of prejudice

By JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR's ruling body was accused in the High Court yesterday of prejudice against a union official who failed to be selected as a parliamentary candidate in Swindon North, a key marginal seat.

Mr D'Avila, who lost to Michael Willis, a former aide to Gordon Brown, is taking legal action aimed at winning a rerun of the constituency ballot. He claims there were irregularities in the selection process.

The Labour MP John Evans, a long-standing member of the National Executive Committee, accused it of breaking party rules and treating Mr D'Avila unfairly.

Mr D'Avila alleges that a number of postal votes were opened before the official count and could have been tampered with. Mr Willis won by 114 votes to 84.

The NEC agreed at its meeting last month to set up a special panel to select a candidate from the original shortlist, but it did not recom-

mend a fresh ballot. As the case resumed in the High Court in London yesterday Mr Evans submitted an affidavit complaining of prejudice against Mr D'Avila, an official from the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union.

Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, said there was no reasonable basis for the NEC not to select the candidate itself.

The case was adjourned until today.

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BARCLAYS VISA	£10.00	21.7%	£401.20	£148.40
LLOYDS ACCESS	£12.00	20.9%	£388.80	£118.60
MIDLAND VISA	£12.00	21.3%	£394.80	£130.60
NATWEST ACCESS	£12.00	22.4%	£412.80	£166.60
CO-OPERATIVE BANK GOLD VISA	Nil	21.7%	£396.00	£133.00

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Rock found in Moroccan village Geologist digs up unknown mineral on roadside stall

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRIGHT blue rock bought for a few pounds at a roadside stall in Morocco is unlike anything known to science, according to experts at the Natural History Museum in London.

The pyramid-shaped mineral was taken to the museum by its owner, Anna Grayson, a broadcaster, when she was presenting a programme during last year's Science Week in which museum experts identified objects taken in by members of the public.

The Arab stallholder who sold it to her described it as lapis lazuli, but Mrs Grayson, a geologist by training, realised it was more unusual. She could not identify it, and nor could the museum's expert, Dr Gordon Cressey.

Tests at the museum using X-ray diffraction made it clear that the mineral was new. Dr Cressey said that new minerals - about 40 of which are discovered and described every year - are usually found in such microscopic amounts that they are barely visible to the naked eye. This new mineral is so unusual because the specimen is very large and



because it is the most strikingly blue mineral ever discovered," he said.

Mrs Grayson said she saw the rock for sale while on a field trip and was intrigued enough to buy it. "I'm thrilled to bits," she said. "Every stone has a story and this is a remarkable one. It shows that Science Week can be an opportunity for real discoveries to be made."

Under an electron microscope, the mineral - yet to be given a name - has a structure made up of very fine fibres, rather like asbestos. When viewed under polarised light, it displays a kaleidoscope of colour, changing from bright blue to bright purple. Studying the fine crystals is difficult, but by bombarding them with beams of electrons

to stimulate the production of X-rays, the museum team has established that it contains silicon, aluminium, calcium, magnesium, iron and oxygen.

The composition provides a hint of why the mineral should be so intensely blue. It seems likely that the iron is present in two forms and that electrons can hop to and fro between neighbouring iron atoms as light strikes it. Yellow, green and red light are the right wavelength to stimulate the process, leaving the blue component of white light to pass through unabsorbed.

Dr Cressey said that investigating minerals provided insights into the range of properties engineered by nature. "If we want to devise new materials, chemicals and crystals for useful purposes, then we should first look at what nature has managed to do. It has had a lot longer to experiment than we shall ever have."

Nobody knows exactly where the rock originated, and Mrs Grayson, from Watford, is keeping the name of the Moroccan village where she bought it a secret to prevent it from being swamped by souvenir hunters.

"I'm fairly certain it comes from a mountainous region," she said, "but that could be anywhere, even perhaps outside Morocco. It has clearly been compressed, squeezed and heated in the earth, and I suspect it is pretty ancient. She hopes that its source will be found, and the mineral given a name reflecting it."

Mrs Grayson's rock will be a central attraction at the South Kensington museum during this year's Science, Engineering and Technology Week, which began at the weekend. Today it will be shown to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, when he pays a visit.



Anna Grayson and her roadside rock purchase



A passenger boarding a Routemaster yesterday. The buses are popular with the public, but Brussels considers them hazardous. Photograph: JULIAN HERBERT

Brussels moves to shut door on 'unsafe' buses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE 150-year-old tradition of "open-platform" double-decker buses on the streets of London is under threat from a draft Brussels ruling that will force new buses to be fitted with passenger doors.

The ruling would stop London Transport commissioning a 21st-century successor to the Routemaster, the most recent in a long line of "hop on, hop off" buses dating back to the Victorian horse-drawn double-deckers.

The European Commission regards London's Routemasters as dangerous and outdated and wants all buses built in Europe after 2000 to have doors to stop passengers from falling out and injuring themselves.

The draft legislation, which is still being drawn up by a working party, states that "the minimum number of doors in a vehicle shall be two: either two service doors or one service door and one emergency door".

Routemasters, which are the last open-platform buses operating in Western Europe, are popular with Londoners and tourists, allowing them to jump on and off even if the bus is moving. Senior executives at London Transport, fearing complaints if doors are brought in, have asked a design company to explore ways of bypassing the legislation. One possibility is fitting doors to the back of new platform buses to meet the letter of the legislation but leaving them open.

The 600 surviving Routemasters, built between 1959 and 1969, are reaching the end of their extended service and will have to be replaced within six years. They were designed to operate for only 17 years.

Peter Ford, chairman of London Transport, has called a conference of bus executives in June to consider options for the future, with one possibility being single-deck "bendi-buses". London Transport lawyers may also lobby against an open-platform design, fearing legal action from passengers who fall from buses.

Mick Jones, managing director of DCA Design International, which has the brief for a new design, said: "It's a quandary to know what to do. The Routemaster is an icon of London, up there with Tower Bridge and the black taxi."

Bristol hails future of driverless taxis

BY NIGEL HAWKES

TRAVEL around cities in the future could be by driverless, computer-controlled vehicles carrying passengers to their destination on command.

A Bristol University team has devised a system and plans to test it at the British Aerospace site nearby in Filton. The vehicles would carry four, and run on tracks. They could be boarded at stops or hailed like taxis, and would take passengers directly to any other point on the network.

The system of urban light transport, called Ultra, is the result of research by a group headed by Professor Martin Lowson, who was explaining it at Waterloo station yesterday as part of Science Week. By early next century the team believes it would be possible to install Ultra in Bristol.

Most journeys would be at ground level on hidden power rails, with some sections on elevated pathways to cross traffic routes. The system would cut journey times, use only a tenth as much energy as cars, and provide a 24-hour service, accessible to all.

Housing threat to prime farmland

BY MICHAEL HORNBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

UP TO half the farmland in England will be at risk from new housing schemes because of a proposed weakening of planning controls, it is claimed today.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England says the proposal flies in the face of the Government's stated commitment to build a bigger proportion of new houses on developed land rather than on

greenfield sites. Gregor Hutcheon, the council's rural affairs officer, said: "The Government is proposing to relax the protection given to the highest-quality agricultural land, classified as Grade 3a, particularly in counties where there is little lower-grade land available."

"We reckon that 35 out of 46 counties in England fall into that category. If the proposal goes through it would mean that up to half of England's farmland will be treated as agriculturally unimportant."

At present Grade 3a land, which accounts for 13.5 per cent of farmland in England and Wales, is virtually guaranteed protection from development because of its importance for food production. A "more flexible approach" to the development of Grade 3a land was proposed in the Government's Rural White Paper, published last October. The Environment Department says revised planning guidelines will be issued to 27 new towns the size of Milton Keynes - will be needed over the next 20 years.

The council says the lowering of protection will encourage unrealistic demand for new housing. Mr Hutcheon said: "It also ignores the recent warning by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that Britain could face food shortages in the next century if too much of the best farmland is built on."

The Environment Department calculates that 4.4 million new houses - equivalent to 27 new towns the size of Milton Keynes - will be needed over the next 20 years.

Saudi buys football club for son

BY JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

A SAUDI ARABIAN millionaire is buying a football club so that his son can become a professional player. Saleh al-Aisawi will pay £250,000 for Faversham Town, the bottom club in the Winston League, which is threatened with bankruptcy.

Mr al-Aisawi, 42, a businessman and former Saudi international, trains every week with the Faversham

youth squad, of which his son Karim, 14, is a member. Mr al-Aisawi is also one of the few regular spectators at first-team fixtures. At a floodlit game last week 33 paying supporters watched semi-professional Faversham lose 3-1.

Vernon Willis, the club secretary, said: "Our electricity bill for the night was much more than the game earned." The club is £6,500 in debt.

The purchase has still to be finalised. Mr al-Aisawi, who runs an international recycling company and lives in

Herne Bay, said: "As far as I am concerned, the deal has been done and I am very happy with it. I just want to do everything I can do to help Faversham and my son. We are bottom of the Kent league and cannot drop any lower. I love football and do not think I am wasting my money."

"I realise the club has a long way to go, but we have the right spirit. My son's ambition is to be a professional footballer and play for Saudi Arabia, as I did. He is a very good midfield player and has already represented Kent schoolboys." Mr al-Aisawi has told supporters that he wants to see the club, which was founded in 1908, promoted to Beazer Homes Southern League.

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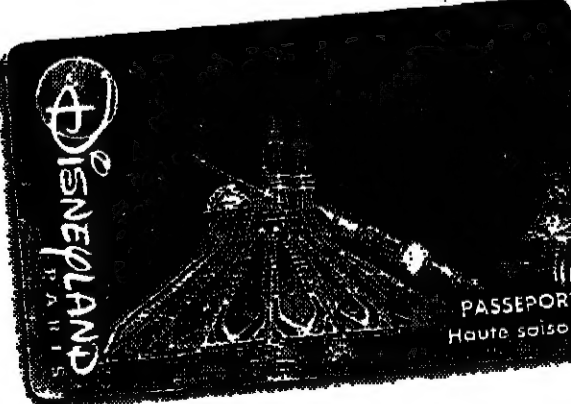
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TW 1903

Court told how marriage to 'Mother of the Nation' left Mandela at the end of his tether

President needed to go public with his divorce

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE question being asked by many in South Africa last night was whether it really was necessary for President Mandela, a world leader of enormous stature and integrity, to humiliate himself publicly in a court of law, just to secure a divorce. Perhaps contrary to suggestions, the answer seems clear-cut.

It is worth recalling a revealing early tale about the couple when Mr Mandela, then 41, took his wife for a driving lesson on a quiet Soweto road shortly after they were married in 1958. "We could not seem to shift gears without quarrelling," he recalled many years later. "Finally, after she had ignored one too many of my suggestions, I stormed out of the car and walked home. Winnie seemed to do better without my tutelage, for she proceeded to drive around the township on her own for the next hour."

One of the world's best-

known marriages between two people noted for their stubbornness has endured numerous collisions. Over the past 36 years Mrs Mandela has time and again shown she is not one for being controlled. Yesterday's court proceedings gave a glimpse of what the exasperated South African

leader should never be underestimated. It was not unusual for her to see him only once every six months on Robben Island, and then only for a few minutes. As the President's affidavit states: "The relationship between the defendant and me gradually disintegrated over many years".

Her behaviour would have tested the patience of greater men. One is left with the impression of a desperate man at the end of his tether with a woman whose profile as "Mother of the Nation" went to her head.

Early in 1977, Mrs Mandela was banished to the remote township of Phakalale, outside Brandfort in the Orange Free State. She returned to Soweto in 1985, again in open defiance of the authorities, but many consider it was these nine years in exile that radically changed her.

She became the focus of mass adulation and greedy for money and opulence. Her mansion in Soweto cost £125,000 and she surrounded herself with young thugs known as the Mandela United Football Club. Their activities brought her into conflict with anti-apartheid activists, and in 1989 she was isolated within the liberation struggle.

COMMENTARY

leader has had to contend with. In solemn tones Mr Mandela recalled how he had made it clear to his estranged wife that he wanted a divorce and on several occasions sent friends and colleagues to mediate, all to no avail. With a weary look etched on his face, he also mentioned how Mrs Mandela ignored his calls as the leader of the African National Congress not to travel to America with her lover.

The strain that his 27-year imprisonment put on the mar-

riage should never be underestimated. It was not unusual for her to see him only once every six months on Robben Island, and then only for a few minutes. As the President's affidavit states: "The relationship between the defendant and me gradually disintegrated over many years".

Yet from early on Mrs Mandela showed how she favoured a different approach, which has raised questions about Mr Mandela's judgment in selecting her as a bride. From militant statements, notably the comment about matches and tyres during the township unrest of the 1980s, which often contradicted ANC policy to her more recent dismissal for misconduct as a deputy minister, she has long walked the populist path.



Winnie and Nelson Mandela celebrate the end of the state of emergency in 1960 with a jubilant show of affection, but quarrels marred their marriage from the start

Secrets of husband's accounts

Johannesburg: Mystery surrounds the central question in the Mandela divorce case: how much the South African President is worth (Inigo Gilmore writes).

At the weekend a South African newspaper put the figure at about £6.6 million. But the reality is that only a handful of people know.

The President's lawyers close up when questioned. What is known is that Mr Mandela earns 552,000 rands (£600,000) a year in presidential salary. But a third of his salary and some of the proceeds of his autobiography, *Long Walk To Freedom*, have been channelled into his Children's Fund, set up to help South Africa's youth. It is also thought that money from his Nobel peace prize has been directed towards charity.

Winnie Mandela is claiming half his assets, but there may be a few surprises if details emerge. Mr Mandela is known to live frugally and, given his generosity, he may not be worth as much as his wife hopes.

Low turnout adds to emptiness of Mugabe victory

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE of Zimbabwe was heading for a predictably secure victory yesterday in the weekend's controversial presidential elections. However, he was also having to face up to the poorest turnout of voters since he came to power 16 years ago.

Mariyawanda Nzuwala, the chairman of the election directorate, said that only 31 per cent of 4.9 million registered voters had cast ballots, compared with 55 per cent in the 1990 presidential election.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, 71, president of the United Parties, and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, 76, the leader of the Zanu (Ndonga) party, both pulled out of the election last week, citing unfair electoral practices. Election officials first said that the poll would have to be cancelled and Mr Mugabe would have to be declared elected unopposed. Then they reversed that decision, saying the notices of withdrawal were too late and the vote would go ahead.

"I regard that figure [of the turnout] as a rejection of Mugabe," Bishop Muzorewa said last night. "He does not have a mandate to rule this country. I feel very good that we have been successful in boycotting this bogus election."

We are now being ruled by a black minority one-party dictatorship."

Results from the first seven constituencies showed Mr Mugabe won all comfortably, except for Chipinge South. Mr Sithole's parliamentary seat.

Mr Mugabe ran a lavish campaign to counter widespread discontent with his rule and the corruption and mismanagement that have forced living standards to crash. He has been rescued from deeper embarrassment by the rural areas where he enjoys most support. In urban areas, polling stations were deserted.



Muzorewa: "We are ruled by minority dictatorship"

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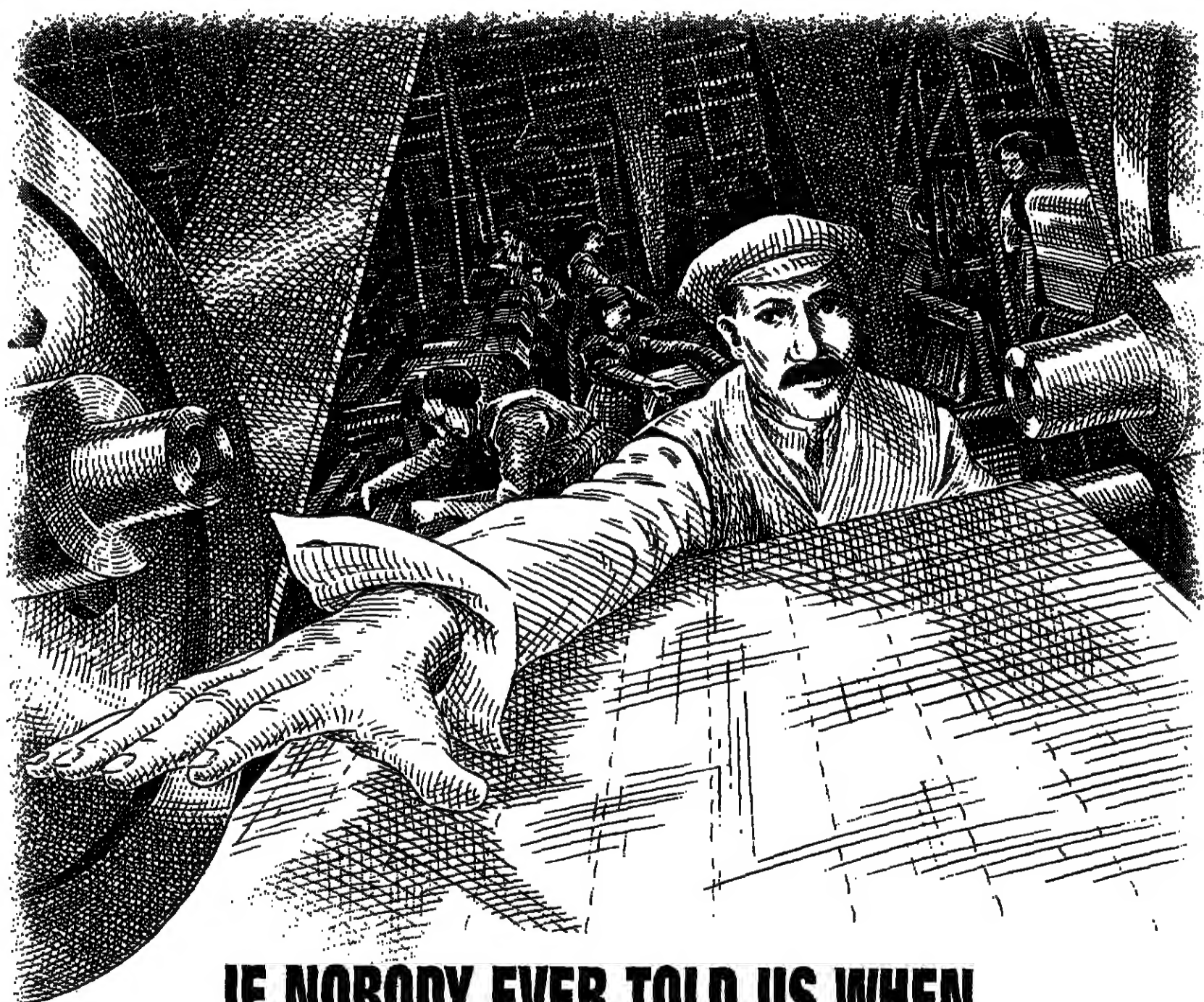
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Reducing Risks - Protecting People

SkyePharma to buy Swiss drugs firm for £128m

By ERIC REGULY

SKYEPHARMA, the small pharmaceuticals company formed in January by Ian Gowrie-Smith, the Australian financier, yesterday agreed to buy Jago Holding, a private Swiss drugs company, for about £128 million.

Jago has for several years been on the takeover list of Mr Gowrie-Smith, the man who in 1987 launched Medeva, a mid-sized pharmaceuticals company that became a stock market favourite. Jago is considered a leader in drug-delivery technologies and has development programmes with several large pharmaceuticals groups.

Mr Gowrie-Smith said: "It is very obvious that if you combine Jago's technology and our

distribution capability with Jago's relationships with these companies around the world, you could build a hell of a drugs pipeline."

SkyePharma is buying Jago from Jacques Gonella, who founded the company in 1983. SkyePharma is paying £104.8 million in cash, which is being raised through an open offer to existing shareholders. The indicated price will range between 84p and 100p, based on a one-for-ten share consolidation.

Mr Gonella will also receive about £23 million in ordinary SkyePharma shares, equivalent to about 8 per cent of the company, plus 20 per cent of any royalty payments above \$30 million a year that Jago collects. The royalty arrangement lasts for ten years and has been capped at a total of \$250 million.

Mr Gowrie-Smith, who will own 20 per cent of the enlarged group, said that Mr Gonella was not able to expand Jago on his own. "Jago was at the limit of its financial resources; it was 100 per cent owned by one person," he said.

Jago's most important technology is called Geomatrix, a tablet-based system that controls the release of an active drug into the bloodstream. For example, the system might release the drug several hours after the patient has ingested the tablet. The company also has a line of respiratory products, comprising metered-dose inhalers and dry-powder inhalers.

Such products are considered high-growth areas. Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the Anglo-French pharmaceuticals company, bought Fisons of Britain last year, primarily to gain access to its inhaler technology.

Agency tonic, page 29



Follow that cab: Jamie Borwick, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, the maker of London taxis, and Hugh Lang, chairman, are upbeat with pre-tax profits in the six months to January 31 up 29 per cent at £2.54 million and a 2.5p (2p) dividend

Deadline for power bids ruling extended

By MELVYN MARCUS
City Editor

IAN LANG, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has agreed to a request by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for an extension of its deadline to report on National Power's £2.5 billion bid for Southern Electric and PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midlands Electricity.

Mr Lang has sanctioned an extension of just under two weeks from this Friday to Thursday, April 4.

As *The Times* reported on March 6, the City expects PowerGen and National Power's bids to be cleared, subject to stringent conditions. The MMC is expected to insist on full transparency in order to aid Ofwat, the electricity regulator, led by Professor Stephen Littlechild, in its regulatory role. A decision by the MMC to insist on significant sales of generating capacity, above and beyond Professor Littlechild's directive for the disposal of 6,000 MW of plant, could prove unacceptable to the generating companies.

Professor Littlechild strongly opposes vertical integration between the power generation and regional distribution companies. Mr Lang, in contrast, has said he does not believe that vertical integration is "inherently objectionable."

Midlands and Southern's share prices both rose 3p to 394p and 88p respectively.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

George admits to inflation pessimism

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday acknowledged that it had been "fairly consistently over-pessimistic" about prospects for inflation since sterling's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism, although less so than the majority of other forecasters. But, delivering the annual central bank lecture to the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden, he said that it was the Bank's duty to err on the side of caution "in order to build up policy credibility against the background of the UK's unhappy track record".

But he said that this was only bias at the margin and that the Bank's credibility clearly would not be helped if the caution was generally seen to be substantially and consistently overdone. Mr George said that Britain may have moved into a fundamentally more stable monetary environment, although the authorities still had a long way to go in persuading the financial markets of this.

Premier Oil payout

PREMIER OIL, the oil and gas exploration group, is paying its first dividend after a rise in production revenues. Shareholders will receive 0.5p a share after a rise in net profit from £9 million to £25.1 million in 1995. Earnings rose 60 per cent to 2.63p a share. Oil production rose by 9,300 barrels of oil equivalent per day to an average of 23,500, with higher production from Wyth Farm in Dorset and the inclusion of 6,000 barrels from the Scott, Ivanhoe and Rob Roy assets acquired with the takeover of Pict Petroleum early last year.

Victaulic lifts Glynwed

GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL, the engineering group, achieved a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £84 million in 1995, helped by the £145 million acquisition in June of Victaulic, the pipes and fitting company. The company predicted further progress this year after a slow first half. Glynwed said it would continue to sell off non-core businesses and increase its overseas interests to end its reliance on cyclical markets. The total dividend rises 4.1 per cent to 12.75p. A final dividend of 8.35p (8.1p) is payable on June 7.

TT Group on lookout

TT GROUP, the acquisitive industrial holding company, could comfortably raise up to £140 million to finance another purchase, said John Newman, chairman, yesterday. The company reported a rise in 1995 pre-tax profits to £44.9 million (£35.6 million). Earnings were 9.5p (6.2p) a share and the total dividend is lifted to 6.52p (5.43p), with a 4.08p final due May 23. The company ended last year with borrowings of just £1.1 million after capital expenditure of £32.6 million and acquisitions totalling £23.5 million.

MAID £4m in red

MAID, the online database company, incurred losses of £4 million before tax last year because of anticipated heavy investment costs. Profit was £1.3 million in 1994. Turnover increased by 54 per cent to £13.6 million. There is again no dividend. MAID announced it had won 400 new corporate subscribers last year and had signed up 55 new information providers. The company added that this year had started well with record revenues in January and February.

Ellis in administration

ELLIS GROUP, the construction company based in Middlesex, has been placed in administration. The company, which is the main or management contractor on 38 projects ranging in size from £500,000 to £7.5 million, blamed the failure on a shortage of working capital and late payments on a number of contracts. It employs 60 people and turnover was £20 million in 1995. Simon Freakley, the joint administrator, said it was intended to sell the company as a going concern.

Takare issues warning

TAKARE, the nursing home operator, achieved an average occupancy rate of 96 per cent in 1995 but warned shareholders that occupancy rates were likely to fall this year. The company reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £21.8 million (£21 million) after a £3 million charge against depreciation accounting changes. Earnings were 14.3p (14.5p). A final dividend of 1.7p a share, due April 26, lifts the total to 2.6p (2.3p). Capital investment was £51 million.

Wilson Bowden hopeful

WILSON BOWDEN, the housebuilder, said it has seen the start of an improving trend in house sales in 1996, although the market remains difficult to predict. Pre-tax profits fell to £29.6 million (£37.1 million) in the year to December 31. The company is maintaining the total dividend at 10.05p a share, with an unchanged 7.2p final, due on May 28. Earnings were 21.1p a share (27.1p). Earlier this month, the company announced a £10.4 million recommended offer for Trencherwood.

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ELECTION

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 1996

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Please note there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on election day, Saturday 30 March.

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Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1996 State Election closed on 8 March 1996.

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PremierOil increases net profit by 179%

Preliminary Results for 1995

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- Earnings per share increased by 60%.
- Maiden cash dividend of 0.5p per share proposed with share alternative.
- Production average 23,500 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Currently at 30,000.
- 3 new UK fields onstream - Fife, Blenheim and Galahad.
- Qadirpur gasfield in Pakistan onstream at 200 million cubic feet per day - Premier's first significant international production.
- Major refinancing completed March 1996. \$150 million 10 year US private placement and \$200 million 7 year bank facility.

Charles Jamieson, Chief Executive, comments: "Premier has set itself challenging targets for growth and profitability over the next 3 years. These record results based on a solid UK production platform and the start of returns from our overseas investment programme significantly strengthen our position as an international exploration and production company. The declaration of a maiden dividend is an indication of our confidence in the future."

To reserve your copy of the 1995 Report & Accounts to be published on 5 April, please write to: Frank Inouye, Premier Oil plc, 23 Belgrave Street, London SW1V 0NR or telephone 0171 730 1111.

Expansion sees Select profits rise

Select Appointments made pre-tax profits of £8.8 million in 1995, against £2.6 million in the previous 12 months. The increase follows a three-year plan to establish Select as an international recruitment group. It now has 30 companies operating in 18 countries. Earnings were 1.33p a share (0.55p). There is a single, final dividend of 0.25p a share (nil). Turnover of £226.7 million, including a £42.9 million contribution from acquisitions, against £89.5 million in 1994.

Astec ahead

Profits at Astec (BSR), the power conversion and electronic components group, advanced to £28.1 million before tax last year from £21 million in 1994. There was a 19.1 per cent increase in sales to £371.8 million. The company expanded its low-cost Asian manufacturing base with a third Chinese factory. Earnings were 7.33p, up from 5.86p. The total dividend rises to 1.5p a share from 1.2p, with a 1p final payable June 11.

Mayborn up

Mayborn Group, the baby accessories and fabric dyes company best known for its Tommee Tippee and Dylon brands, lifted profits to £5.6 million before tax from £4.9 million in 1995. Earnings were 18.8p, up from 16.1p. The total dividend rises to 7.2p a share from 6.4p, with a 4.95p final. The company ended the year with cash of £2 million.

Rogers post

David Rogers, 48, who resigned abruptly as chief executive of Amstrad in December following the consumer electronics group's proposed restructuring, is set to join Lucent Technologies, formerly the systems and technology business of AT&T, as president of its network systems business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Happy viewing

VCI, the video and audio publishing group, saw pre-tax profits advance 39 per cent to £5.03 million in 1995. The final dividend is up 17 per cent to 4.9p (4.2p) and is payable on May 31, giving a total of 7.1p for the year, from earnings up to 17.3p (16.2p) a share. The shares rose 6p to 263p, compared with a flotation price of 150p when VCI came to the market in June 1994.

New blow in tobacco tug-of-war

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER scientist who worked for Philip Morris, the world's largest cigarette manufacturer, says that the company knew tobacco could be addictive and manipulated nicotine levels to ensure continued sales.

The statement in an affidavit is a further setback for the \$45 billion US tobacco industry, which faces a rising tide of law suits and damaging allegations by former employees.

Ian Uddess's allegations against Philip Morris contradicted repeated claims by tobacco industry executives that their research showed no evidence that nicotine was addictive. But it echoes claims by other former industry employees, including Jeffrey Wigand, former research chief at Brown & Williamson, a leading US cigarette maker owned by BAT Industries which is bringing a court case against him for revealing confidential company information.

A further blow to the industry came last week when Liggett Group, the fifth largest tobacco company, became the first to agree to pay out money after settling several large law suits, shattering the industry-wide consensus against such deals.

Analysts said this could open the floodgates to more settlements, costing the industry tens of billions of dollars.

Tempos, page 28

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.81
Austria Sch	16.84	15.34
Belgium F	69.25	44.50
Canada C	2.192	2.032
Cyprus Cyp	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	175.80	158.50
Finland Mk	7.82	6.51
France F	8.12	7.47
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	389.00	384.00
Hong Kong \$	12.47	11.47
India Ru	1.52	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1200	4.6700
Italy Lit	2497.00	2242.00
Japan Yen	175.80	158.50
Malta	0.561	0.535
Netherlands Gld	2.573	2.443
New Zealand \$	2.29	2.17
Norway Kr	10.38	9.59
Portugal Esc	244.50	228.00
S. Africa Rd	6.54	5.74
Spain Ptas	167.00	154.00
Sweden Kr	10.32	10.12
Switzerland F	1.85	1.77
Switzerland F	100.00	100.00
USA \$	1.027	1.497

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYGiving cricket
a spin

TORN between listening to Lord Alexander of Weedon on *Desert Island Discs* and Sri Lanka walloping Australia at cricket in Lahore last Sunday, the family of the chairman of NatWest chose the sound of leather on willow. Even the great man himself admits to having had "an ear on the radio, and an eye on the television". The NatWest press office caught up with Sue Lawley's penetrating questions yesterday, and spent their lunch hour listening to a recording.

Own goal

NO first-class travel, flash cars, or nights at the opera — that's the hard line at Eurotherm, where Claes Hultman, the chief executive, has put a stop to fast expense account living. However, the strict Swede, who was appointed chairman of Wembley last week, was sporting a very red face when an expenses inquiry he ordered "got out of hand". The amount missing was £300, and after a thorough search, Hultman discovered he had scored an own goal because a few receipts had slipped through the net.

Gas mark 0

GAS-guzzling households opening their bills over breakfast, may have wanted to read what British Gas has to say on its demerger. The front of a folded leaflet promises to reveal all, but the two inside pages are blank for some customers, except for several small gas flame symbols. The final page promises to "keep customers up to date with what is happening by sending out information with British Gas bills".



"Now what shall we buy with it?"

Bendy toy

JAMIE BORWICK, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, is a little miffed with Hugh Lang, his chairman, after he left scratches on Borwick's very own "club-class" taxi-cab yesterday. The blame lies with a photographer who liked Borwick's idea that the two should climb on its roof at the announcement of the company's results. "I was concerned that we might bend it a little," sighs Borwick. "It was a matter of hanging on for dear life."

Grounded Jett

JOSEPH JETT, the US bond trader who lost his job at Kidder Peabody two years ago over accusations that he engineered a \$350 million derivatives bonanza, now earns less per hour than he used to spend on a shoeshine. The man who once received multi-million dollar Wall Street bonuses is working in New York under an assumed name as a furniture removal man. The Harvard graduate is apparently broke, having spent a small fortune on lawyers to fight Kidder's accusations — and his account at Kidder, containing some \$5 million, is frozen.

THE Treasury appears to be making a move on the hapless Yorkshire Water. In a summary of the Bill to take building societies into the next millennium, it reads: "The proposed Bill will enable societies to adapt to changes in the housing market."

Medicines evaluation agency
provides the right tonic

Eric Reguly on
how London is
fast becoming a
world centre for
pharmaceuticals

London is well on its way to becoming the world's pharmaceutical centre, and it's not just big-name companies that are coming here. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the Continent's answer to America's powerful Food and Drug Administration, has set up shop and, not that anyone noticed, has just celebrated its first anniversary.

The EMEA's first year may have passed without fanfare, but its plans are ambitious. It has leased three vast floors in the shadow of the Canary Wharf tower and is filling them with computers, libraries, scientists, canteens with multilingual menus, interpreters and meeting halls that look like a scaled-down version of the Strasbourg Parliament. John Redwood, the arch-Euro-sceptic, would not be amused.

If Bernard Sauer, 48, the French and EC civil servant and the EMEA's first executive director, gets his way, the agency will eventually make Europe's national medicines regulators redundant. In time, it may even emerge as part of a super-regulator, linked with the FDA and Japan's create an international agency that would allow pharmaceuticals groups to clear medicines in three of the world's biggest markets in one go.

But M Sauer is not getting his hopes up just yet. The EMEA is an embryonic body and, he admits, "may not work". Indeed, like any expanding body of the European Commission, petty rivalries and politics are threatening its existence and many of its clients, the pharmaceutical companies, are not quite sure what to make of it yet. The national regulators pose the biggest political threat; by definition, the EMEA's success can only come at the expense of the national regulators.

London got the EMEA as a consolation prize. Three years ago, when the EC began to dole out new agencies, London pitched for the European Monetary Institute, the future European Bank, which was the most glamorous name on the list. But Frankfurt was the winner, leaving London with a choice of the second-tier agencies, including environment, narcotics control and the EMEA. It went for the latter. The agency was officially created in September 1994 and opened for business six months later.

In retrospect, the move was a smart one, because London was starting to figure large on the pharmaceuticals map. In 1989, a transatlantic merger created SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's largest healthcare and drugs groups, with headquarters in London. Five years later, Glaxo launched a £9.1 billion bid for rival Wellcome and formed the world's largest pharmaceutical group.

Then, last year, Upjohn of America and Pharmacia of Sweden joined forces to create another industry giant. They split the difference between Kalamazoo and Stockholm and made London their



Bernard Sauer of the EMEA outside the agency's Canary Wharf headquarters

new headquarters, Zeneca, the drugs and chemicals company paraded off from ICI, is also in London. Meanwhile, the biotechnology sector began to take off. British Biotech, has come out of nowhere to have a market capitalisation of £1.3 billion.

The companies were attracted to London because of the increasingly global nature of the business. London provides them with relatively quick access to the key European and North American markets and as well as to Europe's leading financial centre. English has become the *lingua franca* of the industry, British universities are maintaining a long tradition of pumping out top research scientists. With the EMEA on their doorstep, the case for British chemistry grows stronger still. Germany's Bayer has already moved its regulatory division to London so that it can be close to the new agency. Others are expected to follow suit.

The EMEA is a revolutionary concept. Before its launch, drugs had to be

submitted to the national regulators for approval. The process could be laborious and expensive, especially if a company wanted Europe-wide clearance: each of the EC's 15 regulators had to give its stamp of approval.

Unlike, say, securities commissions in the US and Canada, there was no automatic mutual recognition, although in practice, three national agencies tend to set the baseline for standards worldwide: those of the United States, Britain and France.

In theory, an agency such as the EMEA will be good for business. The cliché that time is money applies to the pharmaceuticals industry like no other. Bypassing the national regulators means that drugs can reach more markets more quickly. Today, the top companies strive to launch drugs with an annual sales potential of £500 million. Saving months of tortuous regulatory proceedings could generate hundreds of millions a year in extra sales.

Operationally, the EMEA does not work like the national regulators or the

FDA. It essentially acts as a contractor, farming out most of the scientific review work to experts approved by the EC states. The final reviews are conducted at Canary Wharf. The EMEA promises to make approval decisions within 210 days of submission. The FDA, by comparison, can take as long as three years.

Once the drug is approved by the EMEA, it cannot be rejected by the national regulators; its blessing guarantees instant access to every EC country. With credentials such as this, you would think that every drug company in Europe would be beating a path to its door. They are not.

The agency has got off to a slow start, partly because its use is optional except for new biotech drugs such as vaccines. All other new products, such as anti-cancer and HIV drugs, can be submitted to either the national regulators or the EMEA. In its 13 months of operations, it has approved only seven drugs, all of them biotech drugs, against its capacity to approve some 40 drugs a year. The first was Gonal-F, an infertility treatment produced by Britain's Serono Laboratories. The most recent was Novo-7, a drug designed to reduce bleeding.

M Sauer is not surprised by the slow start. Drug companies, he says, were understandably wary about using an unproven agency, though that appears to be changing. Richard Ley, a spokesman for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, says: "It is still early days, but an increasing number of pharmaceutical companies are choosing to use this centralised system. Confidence will grow in it."

They have spent decades building up relationships with the national regulators and old habits die hard. Furthermore, with the debate intensifying about how much power Brussels should have, there is no pressure yet to scrap the national regulators. "For political reasons, you cannot have the centralisation of all agencies," Mr Ley says. "The national regulators will always be necessary in the foreseeable future. But, in ten years time, it's probable that only a few national authorities will survive."

In the short term, the rivalry between the EMEA and the national regulators could turn bloody. Financing is the issue. All of the agencies' operating budgets rely on a combination of government funding and fees paid by the drug companies for approvals. These fees have become increasingly important as government budgets get squeezed. By taking business from the national regulators, the EMEA is cutting their vital flow of private financing; its ultimate goal is to rely entirely on fee income. "The national regulators get annoyed. They are considering their future and they have to compete for fees among themselves and now with us," M Sauer says.

The industry is likely nonetheless to throw its weight behind the EMEA. An EC-wide regulator, one with the clout and stature of the FDA, will eventually save tax euros, or euros, by eliminating some or most of the national regulators. It will benefit drug companies by speeding approvals. Consumers, as a result, will get treatments more quickly. And it will help to make London the world's leading pharmaceuticals centre.



JANET
BUSH

East deserves
better ratings

It is a fact worth noting, as Europe's leaders prepare for the inter-governmental conference (IGC), that the Czech Republic, a former communist state that is not yet a member of the European Union, now has a better credit rating than Greece, an EU member with a long-established market economy. If that doesn't tell you something fairly acute about the pros and cons of deepening the union, as opposed to widening it, nothing else will.

Western Europe, obsessed with the Maastricht convergence criteria, doesn't seem very interested in the dramatic change going on in the old eastern bloc. The Czech Republic not only enjoys an investment-grade credit rating from the main agencies but is also now a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Hungary is expected to join the OECD shortly. Poland and Slovakia both have an investment-grade rating from Moody's.

Christopher Huhne, managing director, Sovereign Ratings at IBCA, said: "The frontier of the international capital markets is heading eastwards." The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia could all be EU members in or around 2000, he said. All four have reached the point of no return in their transition to market economies and integration into Western Europe. He thinks some of these are more competitive than some counterparts in Western Europe.

And yet it seems that the performance of the emerging economies of Eastern Europe is being underestimated. Their development — particularly those outside the first tier of four — depends crucially on their access to credit.

It is ironic, then, that at the first two, key stages of their progress towards full integration into the world economy, they are so dependent on the judgment of institutions that are heavily biased towards America.

In the early stages of development, as Andre Astrow, Director of the Country Risk Service of The Economist Intelligence Unit, points out, emerging economies are absolutely

stuck without the stamp of approval for their policies from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Both are based in Washington, and have been heavily influenced by US economic ideology.

Once beyond reliance on the Bretton Woods institutions, emerging economies are then critically dependent on winning an investment-grade rating from the likes of Standard & Poor's and Moody's, both owned by huge American corporations. It is extraordinary that, only on the say-so of two or three private-sector analytical organisations, these fast-changing economies can tap the international capital markets for financing.

Laza Kekic of the EIU noted that the US rating agencies have tended — although the differences shouldn't be over-dramatised — to be less optimistic on Eastern Europe than, say, the Japanese agencies. He ascribed this partly to culture — old ideological rivalry might be more accurate — and partly to the fact that these economies were simply less familiar to the US agencies. Japanese banks have had long-established banking relationships in countries such as Hungary and Bulgaria. IBICA, based in London, was the first to give the Czech Republic an A investment rating, subsequently followed by the US agencies.

Jonathan Hoffman of CS First Boston argues that it is well-nigh impossible to rate these economies because they are changing so rapidly. Also, because the rating organisations have their judgments on statistics currently available and not where economies will be in ten years' time, he believes that these countries are condemned to being "constantly behind the curve", as far as their ratings are concerned.

This is borne out by the fact that all the revisions of credit ratings in the Eastern European countries have been upwards. Before the IGC gets under way, let's hope that the rating agencies can give these economies ratings that are truly commensurate with their progress. Only then can their claims for inclusion in the EU be debated properly.

Weinstock opts for the heir
who was not so apparent

Ross Tieman assesses the rank outsider
who will succeed his lordship at GEC



Strategic thinking is George Simpson's hallmark

So George Simpson, the shrewd, soft-spoken former carmaker, is indeed to take the helm of Britain's biggest manufacturer, The General Electric Company.

His appointment, confirmed yesterday, ends the 33-year reign of Lord Arnold Weinstock, who created the electrical and electronic engineering colossus from a fragmented British industry in the 1960s, and guided it into a bevy of international partnerships in the 1980s and 1990s.

It is a remarkable vote of confidence. For a decade or more, no one else has been good enough to fill Weinstock's chair at GEC's Starhope Gate headquarters off Park Lane. From his plush eyrie in an otherwise austere grey office block, Lord Weinstock, now 71, has presided over a £10 billion-a-year empire with interests ranging from petrol pumps and weighing machines to power stations and fighter-plane controls.

For a decade too, the stock market has awaited his final coup: a bid for British Aerospace. And as so often before, Lord Weinstock has wrong-footed all the analysts and speculators. Weinstock may still regret the enforced sale of GEC's English Electric fighter plane business to the state-created British Aircraft Corporation more than two decades ago, but would never squander GEC's £2 billion-plus cash-pile on bidding for a company he thought encumbered by civil aerospace and property liabilities.

Many will be surprised at his lordship's choice of successor, Simon Weinstock, his son, is the company's commercial

director, Peter Gershon, the former head of GEC's telecom equipment joint venture with Siemens of Germany, looked like he was being groomed for stardom. He has been winning plaudits for his present efforts to debug GEC-Marconi, the defence subsidiary that accounts for half of the parent's sales. And David Newlands, the

finance director, has worked shoulder to shoulder with his master for years.

Simpson is not only an outsider, he is a man whose CV looks more like that of a company doctor than a company builder. An accountant, he joined British Leyland, repository of all the worst and best of the British motor industry, in 1969.

For 13 years he tackled one lame duck after another: Coventry Climax for trucks, Freight Rover vans, Leyland Trucks and Rover Group were each given the Simpson treatment. Two of those businesses have since survived insolvency: the other two have since been taken over. It doesn't look such a stirring record.

Yet Leyland Trucks, LDV (the Freight Rover vans successor company) and Rover have each, in their way, become pioneering businesses. Business, moreover, that survive — thrive even — against the odds, on the strength of their management skill and strategy.

Strategic thinking is Mr Simpson's hallmark. In a series of recent speeches, he has been arguing that the world's automotive component industry is heading rapidly down the path of consolidation.

Since BMW of Germany took control of Rover, Mr Simpson's patient for the past two years has been Lucas, the manufacturer of diesel engine injection systems, car brakes, and actuators to move the wing flaps on aeroplanes. Lucas has been on and off the sick-list since the 1970s. Simpson's admirers say it is now showing the first signs of recovery.

But what ailment is he expected to cure at GEC? Some would say industrial sclerosis. In the past decade, GEC's pre-tax profit has grown from £730 million to £891 million. Rock steady, but uninspired. Simpson's challenge is to make the profits sparkle, without putting three decades of achievement at risk.

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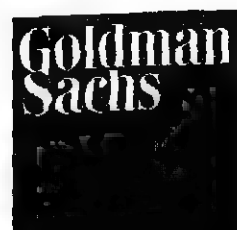
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LAW

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In torment: Caroline Beale is escorted from the Supreme Court in New York by her lawyer, Michael Dowd, left, and her father, Peter

Gary Slapper on the way English law deals with women who kill their children

Mothers and madness

"I believe that any law that grants a blanket exemption from prosecution or punishment to those people who kill their children when their children are under the age of one is a law that is primitive and uncivilised. Granting parents a law to kill their children harkens to uncivilised times. I say to our friends in Britain, God bless America."

This is what Robert Hanophy, a New York State Supreme Court judge, said earlier this month when he replied to the remark of Caroline Beale's father, Peter, who had condemned the indictment of his daughter for murder of her newborn baby as "a cruel and medieval prosecution".

Who is right: the judge or the father? Does a law granting a certain clemency to a mother who kills her baby hark back to barbarism or forward to times of medical and psychiatric enlightenment?

Home Office data show that homicide of children under one year is greater than that of any other age group, being four times higher than the homicide rate among the general population.

This has been the case since at least 1925. An analysis of World Health Organisation data for 1975 indicates that babies under 12 months were at greater risk of becoming homicide victims than any other segment of the population in many First World nations including The Netherlands, England, Wales, Scotland and Germany.

Many of these fatalities, however, are killings by people who cannot legally commit infanticide (husbands



Judge Robert Hanophy: no blanket exemption in US

or boyfriends) and who are therefore convicted of murder or manslaughter.

Under English law, the 1938 Infanticide Act provides that when a woman kills her child of under 12 months, what would ordinarily be murder is reduced to manslaughter if, at the time of the killing, "the balance of her mind was disturbed by reason of her not having fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to the child or by reason of the effect of lactation".

The mother can still be charged with murder but she will escape conviction of that crime (with its mandatory life sentence) if she can produce evidence to show her mind was unbalanced by the effects of childbirth, and the prosecution cannot refute that evidence. Alternatively, the mother might be charged with infanticide. The significance of the offence is that it allows the judge a discretion in sentencing. In practice, most convictions result in probation.

Today, there is a rich clinical literature which describes a

variety of postpartum psychiatric conditions, ranging from mild cases of "baby blues" involving exhaustion and unhappiness (affecting up to half of all new mothers) to severe depressions and postnatal psychosis which can bring hallucinations, confusion, sleep disturbance, violence and mercurial mood shifts. Estimates of the incidence of such severe conditions are in the order of one or two per 1,000 postpartum women.

In England the first piece of legislation on this issue was the Stuart Basset Act of 1623. This Act allowed for a presumption that the death of any illegitimate child was caused by its mother, whose execution was allowed without any proof that she was the killer or even that it had been killed. This Act ran for nearly 200 years before it was repealed. But even after that a mother who killed was still found guilty of capital murder.

In 1922 it had become clear that there was public disap-

proval of prosecuting mothers for murder where they had killed their own babies. It was virtually impossible to get juries to convict such mothers. The 1922 Act spoke of a "newly born" child which the Court of Appeal decided did not refer to a 35-day-old baby. Eventually, the 1938 Act extended the legal significance postpartum period to a year.

The law's concession to mental imbalance in the mother was only one of several reasons advanced to ensure the passage of the early legislation. Other reasons included the idea that the crime did not create the sense of social insecurity which other killings caused, and that such killings, where they were to conceal an illegitimate birth, carried a lower level of wickedness than other killings.

There is now more expert doubt than in 1938 about how often infanticide does result from biochemical disturbance as opposed to distress with social causes such as poverty, isolation and lack of support. The Butler committee on mentally abnormal offenders reported in 1975 that in most cases of infanticide, the effects of childbirth or lactation are remote at the time of the killing. In evidence to the Criminal Law Revision Committee, however, the Royal College of Psychiatrists has noted that some mothers could be impelled to kill their babies as the result of "overwhelming stress from the social environment being highlighted by the birth of a baby, with the emphasis on the unsuitability of accommodation".

Sometimes, no doubt, mothers (and fathers) kill a child in a premeditated way. Those

are, of course, particularly sickening crimes, and ones where, under English law, the State can prosecute for murder. Even in those cases, to label the killer "mad" and not "mad" is contentious.

But there is evidence that many mothers kill in an unpremeditated incident, when they are deeply disturbed — and whether the disturbance is biochemical or environmental or both hardly matters. To deny any special defence to such killers, as Judge Hanophy appears to argue, and treat them as presumptively wicked is to wish to return to principles of law regarded here as intolerably primitive in the 1920s.

Dr Gary Slapper is principal lecturer in law, Staffordshire University.

The legal art of chucking out

Self-help entitles a person to use reasonable force

When the solicitor Allen Chubb drew Laura Harold out of his office and into the street, he was trying to follow the long and honourable legal tradition of self-help. He overdid it and was convicted of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and false imprisonment. The unsuccessful defence was that Mrs Harold was a trespasser and that Chubb was entitled to use reasonable force to eject her from his London offices.

Traditionally, the law has favoured self-help by aggrieved plaintiffs although the modern tendency has been to retreat from the robust attitude of the earlier judges. The ninth edition of *Street on Torts* primly noted that such matters "are fully dealt with in the seventh edition of this work and will not be discussed further here". In case the reader is emboldened to track down the seventh edition in order to learn the fine points of retaking chattels, ejecting trespassers, distress damage feasant and reviving, the book gives a warning that "in general self-help remedies are now looked on by the courts with disfavour and are strictly construed".

Of course, one can have too much of a good thing. A solicitor friend of mine was involved in a case where the police witnessed the aftermath of a man being ejected from a nightclub.

According to the police, the man was travelling four feet six inches above ground as he crossed the road, having presumably crossed the pavement at an even greater height. A court might well decide that an unnecessary degree of force was used by the nightclub bouncers.

It has always been the case that a landowner may use reasonable force to eject a trespasser after giving the trespasser the opportunity to leave voluntarily. The courts have long striven to curb excesses in ejectment and over-enthusiastic self-defence. In 1705 a court clerk called Cockcroft sued an attorney for biting off his forefinger in court. Mr Smith, the attorney, unsuccessfully defended the action on the basis that the clerk had first tried to stick his fingers in the attorney's eyes.

The doctrine of only using necessary force led to a mythical legal duty that the victim should first retreat to a wall when faced by an assailant. Having taken this vital backwards step, however, it was then in order to kill the assailant. As recently as 1985 in *R. v Bird*, the Court of Appeal condemned the notion of a duty to retreat but decided to rule in favour of always killing the assailant.

As the case of Chubb and Mrs Harold showed, what is reasonable force to one is a

"violent and unprovoked" attack to another. I had a similar problem several years ago when an aggrieved Henry Ludford arrived at my office demanding to see me. As I had acted for the committee of the Llangollen Chamber of Trade the previous week in expelling him from membership, I manfully declined to see him and skulked in my office hoping that he would get bored in the waiting room and go away.

Unfortunately, Mr Ludford decided to entertain himself by making abusive comments about me to the receptionist. She was able to cope with this but when he rounded on her and made unfavourable remarks about the size of her bottom, she felt that enough was enough and called me down. I went down with a certain amount of trepidation and told Mr Ludford to leave. He refused. I then said that if he did not go then I would use

reasonable force. I asked the receptionist to make a note that I was only going to use reasonable force. She seemed somewhat disappointed that I was not prepared to use much stronger measures as a punishment for the insult to her.

I eyed up Mr Ludford carefully. Though he was small, he looked an extremely nasty piece of work. He changed his approach and tried to invoke my sympathy. "You wouldn't use force on a man with only one lung and heart problems," he bleated. I cheered up. Plainly, I was in with a chance.

I grabbed him by his arm, turned him and pushed him towards the door which the receptionist opened obligingly. There was a brief moment as he clutched the door frame but I carried on pushing and got him out of the door.

As I went back to my room, I remembered that Mr Ludford had recently complained of being assaulted by one of the local court clerks, although not to the extent of having his finger bitten off. I phoned the police to explain what had happened and found I had already been reported for assault. The police came to interview me, which for some reason they found highly amusing. Fortunately for me, Mr Ludford had reported so many people for assault that the chief superintendent had issued instructions that all files were to be rapidly passed to him for "no further action".

But for this, I might well have found myself in the Crown Court charged with the same offences as Allen Chubb. In view of the outcome of that case, many solicitors will view unwelcome visitors to their offices with even greater caution than before.

● The author is a practising solicitor.



PATRICK STEVENS

Addison bites back

COULD the Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw's enthusiasm for reforming the Crown Prosecution Service have anything to do with Neil Addison, its former senior prosecutor? Since Mr Addison departed from the CPS in the wake of a series of critical articles, he is enjoying a new life as a barrister in private practice. "I have rejoined the Labour Party and the Society of Labour Lawyers — and have certainly expressed my views to Jack Straw," he says.

Judicial campaign
A CAMPAIGN to oust the Lord Chancellor from the Cabinet has been launched by a pressure group called Action for Justice. The group,

INNS AND OUTS

which claims about 1,000 members, has placed advertisements in national newspapers to drum up support.

Its latest ad reads: "The head of the judiciary is in the Cabinet and implicated in all government decisions: judges may be seen to be compromised by that decision... Until the Lord Chancellor leaves the Cabinet, the judiciary's moral authority will be in dispute."

The driving force behind the group, which believes the judiciary to be incapable of fulfilling its judicial review functions properly, is Suzon Forsythe-Moore, a law researcher with De Montfort University, living in Cambridge. The group was started by former Charter 88

activists. We felt there was no remedy in the courts over such things as rail privatisation — and there ought to be."

Press freedom

THE Defamation Bill now going through Parliament has come under fire in *Media Lawyer*, a new newsletter for media lawyers and journalists. It is produced by Tom Welsh, the editor of *McNae's Essential Law for Journalists*, the reporters' media law bible.

The newsletter is for lawyers "who may not have time to read everything they should in their field". But Mr Welsh also hopes it will concentrate minds on a need to promote press freedom. He argues that the media have

been the victims of a steady flow of legislation limiting the freedom to report.

Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales's solicitors, Farrer & Co, have launched a new defamation bulletin together with the Newspaper Society. Julian Pike of Farrer says it is intended to provide "practical advice on risk reduction for everyone in media".

Model weapon

THE leading Birmingham commercial law firm of Eversheds is cutting a dash in the local business community. The five-strong marketing team includes Beverley Western, who combines her work at Eversheds with a burgeoning modelling career. Hamish Munro, the marketing director, says: "She could prove to be our secret weapon."

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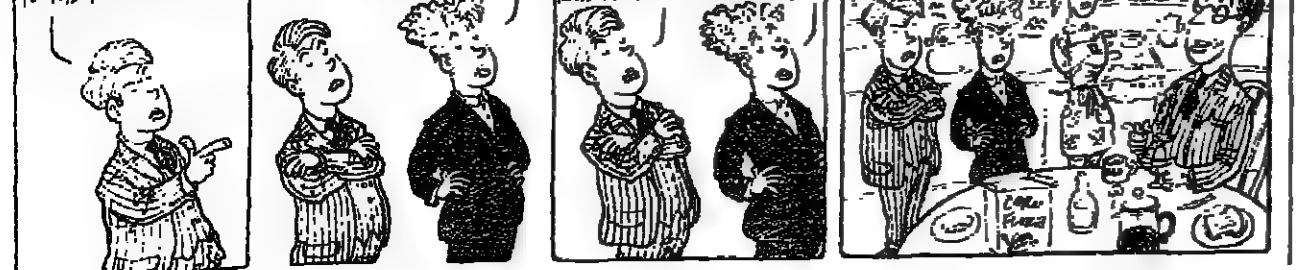
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Will magistrates see the light?

A report is to go soon to the Lord Chancellor detailing the training needs for the 2,000 new magistrates who annually join the bench. The report comes, according to a spokeswoman for Lord Mackay of Clashfern, in response to requests from magistrates themselves.

She said: "Many magistrates had described the existing training methods as too onerous, and irrelevant."

Critics of magistrates, however, say that the report is a direct result of the exposure of inadequate standards on the bench. In one notable case the High Court ordered costs of £10,000, incurred during an appeal, to be paid by magistrates after they jailed a peace protester. Magistrates were also heavily criticised when a Home Office report exposed huge regional variations in sentencing. One Essex court had failed to imprison a single criminal throughout a year of hearing cases. Similar cases in a Staffordshire court led to one in six of those convicted being sent to court.

Paul Boateng, Labour's front-bench legal spokesman, believes that such anomalies can be traced to training standards among magistrates. "The lay magistracy plays a crucial role in the justice system," he says. "However, magistrates are faced with an endless barrage of conflicting signals from the Government and its supporters."

"They are entitled to support and a high quality of training nationwide. At the moment training standards between regions vary; and that is totally unacceptable."

Mr Boateng thinks magistrates

Will Hanrahan describes how video came to the aid of the unpaid judges

should be included in a national "comprehensive training system for all of those working in a justice system". At present the Lord Chancellor's Department provides a syllabus "for the training of magistrates. It is then up to individual justices to carry out the teaching. Traditional 'talk and chalk' methods have been used. But this approach stands and falls on the abilities of the clerks."

One clerk, Steve Reynolds of Exeter and East Devon, became so concerned that his own training methods were failing to prepare magistrates correctly that he began to use television as a teaching aid. He says: "Vital points and issues were not being registered during training routines."

Mr Reynolds scripted a series of typical magistrates' court cases and recorded them with a hand-held video-cassette camera. His staff became the actors. The results bore fruit. "My own magistrates could immediately see the sort of cases they would be up against," he explains. "They responded to the training extremely positively."

The home-made productions attracted the attention of Central Law Training, one of the country's lead-

ing legal teaching organisations. It backed the Exeter initiative by financing a professional production of the video, which has so far sold to 60 magistrates divisions.

"We have covered our costs," says the organisation's Chris Mellor. "We weren't certain the project would ever be self-financing, but we recognised a need."

In what could be a signal for future training methods, the Lord Chancellor's Department has welcomed the use of television in training. "So long as what is taught is part of the syllabus," an official said, "it can only be a good thing."

The video covers four training areas:

• Bail;

• Sentencing;

• Mode of trial;

• Trials.

Each programme is followed by a seminar and written back-up. The cases reveal the style and type of hearing that magistrates can expect. The project was filmed in a court with staff playing the roles of the accused, prosecutor, duty solicitor and court usher.

Video training alone, however, is unlikely to be enough for Mr Boateng. He would like to see consistent standards implemented throughout England and Wales. "I warmly applaud individual benches targeting specific crimes in their areas. Local JPs know best what is worrying their community. However, there are certain basic standards which must be upheld."

• The author, a BBC producer and television presenter, helped to devise the 90-minute training programme for new magistrates.



The DPP goes to China to defend suspects' rights

Frances Gibb reports on an unexpected role for Barbara Mills, QC

Barbara Mills, QC, is not usually cast in the role of defender of suspects' rights. But the Director of Public Prosecutions found herself doing just that on a recent ten-day trip to China.

The Chinese prosecuting authorities are looking at reforms that would shift their criminal justice system a little closer to that in Britain although they worry, Mrs Mills says, that changes might impede their ability to fight crime.

She adds: "I could give examples from our experience here: when we introduced changes such as tape-recording of interviews, we had people expressing the same concerns. But the more openness you have, the easier it is."

Mrs Mills was invited by the Chinese as part of the general opening-up process. Bar and Law Society leaders have already visited the republic and spoken with the legal profession there.

"Before 1979 they were almost living in a walled city," she says. "Since then the changes have been dramatic, the economy has been booming and everything has been affected."

The Chinese authorities have already come to Britain and a programme for their prosecutors is being organised. The idea of the DPP's visit, therefore, was to enable her to see for herself some of the "major differences" between the two criminal justice systems.

Those differences are fundamental. Jury trial does not exist and there is only a limited role for defence lawyers. The Chinese prosecutors have a prosecuting function similar to that of Crown prosecutors; but there the comparison ends. The procurators are central and all-powerful in the justice system; they have a supervisory role over police, courts and prisons to ensure that legal procedures are fulfilled. "If the police don't abide by the law, the procurators will reject the work they've done and the

case will not proceed," Mrs Mills says. They have a similar role over the courts — which is completely alien to the way we think. They ensure that the court considers everything."

She visited the procurators — or prosecuting authorities — in Peking, Tianjin and Shanghai and also observed a murder trial. Once a case reaches court, and has survived the weeding-out of weak cases by the procuratorate, the defendant is assumed to be guilty. The trial is more investigative than accusatorial, with the judge asking questions; and the defence lawyer seeking only to mitigate the sentence. She says: "The defendant co-operates all the way through."

Mrs Mills also visited a prison which, she thought, stood comparison with British jails — although she accepts that it was new and one of the best. Prisoners had "quite a lot of freedom, recreation, a running track and so on — and the prisoners appeared well-fed and looked after." Sentences are far heavier than in Britain.

The Chinese are not in any way contemplating a move to the British justice system. "They thought the idea of juries very strange," Mrs Mills says. And courts are closed to the public unless the judge orders.

But change is afoot: her visit coincided with the annual meeting of the People's National Congress, at which there was much discussion on proposals for a new law on criminal procedure. Reforms include more control over police powers early in a case, greater access to defence solicitors for suspects in the early stages, and a bigger role for lawyers in the court process.

Details have still to be worked out. Who will pay for the lawyers (there is no legal aid) and from where will the lawyers come? (there is a shortage). But the aim is for changes to take effect this October.



Barbara Mills, QC: dramatic changes

Small claims winners lose

MORE THAN one in three people who pursue successful claims in the small claims court fail to recover any money from their opponent, the National Audit Office reported last week. Its survey of 3,000 cases found, overall, a high level of satisfaction with the way in which small claims are handled in the county courts. But although 94 per cent of plaintiffs obtained judgment in their favour, only 54 per cent recovered all or part of their claim and 36 per cent recovered nothing. In 22

per cent of cases, this was because the defendant had no assets, in others because the defendant could not be found.

□ ANDREW LOCKLEY, one of the Law Society's most senior officials, is leaving the society at the end of April after 14 years to take up posts with Irwin Mitchell (heading the firm's professional services unit) and at the University of Sheffield's law department. Mr Lockley, 44, is director of the society's corporate and regional affairs department. The move comes after policy clashes with Martin Mears, the President, but Mr Lockley says he is

leaving because he wanted to move outside London.

□ A LONDON law firm has launched a fixed-price conveyancing package to attract clients aged under 30. The package, from Cumberland Ellis Peirs, includes a will, advice on financial services, a free half-hour consultation and a taxation advice service. The firm is charging £400.

□ THE BAR is exporting its advocacy skills to South Africa under a training programme jointly funded by the UK and South African Governments. Michael Hill

QC has recently returned from leading a team of ten senior barristers and an administrator on a three-week trip to help the South African Bar to set up an advocacy training programme. They helped to train 50 advocacy teachers and held workshops for pupil barristers.

□ LAST Cawthra Feather, a Bradford law firm, has agreed to fight Yorkshire Water on a "no win, no fee" basis on behalf of 60 people who suffered serious bouts of sickness in June 1993. Yorkshire Water denies a link between the illnesses, caused by a parasite, and the breakdown of a water treatment works.

FRANCES GIBB

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Edward Fennell explains why modern lawyers need hired expertise to help them to win cases

Is there a private 'tec on our books?

Going to law is like going to war. The frontline legal "teeth" of solicitors and barristers are increasingly dependent on a "tail" of technological and other services which may be vital in running a case.

Take the recent Maxwell brothers' trial. Among a range of services summoned up by the Serious Fraud Office, the most public was ShowCase, an electronic courtroom presentation system. ShowCase provides an instant electronic record of what has been said in court and enables the barristers to call up key documents which have been put into its database.

No longer is there a need to rifle through piles of files: an image of a piece of evidence can be called up on a screen at the tap of a computer key.

Legal Technologies Limited, the company that provided ShowCase, is an advanced example of the modern legal support service. ShowCase draws on the latest skills to provide an information technology (IT) service to meet the needs of lawyers. Legal Technologies is now working regularly with the top 30 law firms in London and is also

starting to penetrate the regional law market.

Anna Walsh, the company's spokeswoman, says: "With database and CD-Rom technology, a lawyer can carry 30,000 pages in a briefcase on two CDs. The location of a firm in relation to documents and the client becomes less significant and data exchange more speedy and efficient."

So what is available in London and Leeds today will be operating in Luton and Lowestoft tomorrow. Other services being used regularly by commercial practices throughout the UK include headhunters and recruitment companies, needed because of the volatile nature of the legal employment market.

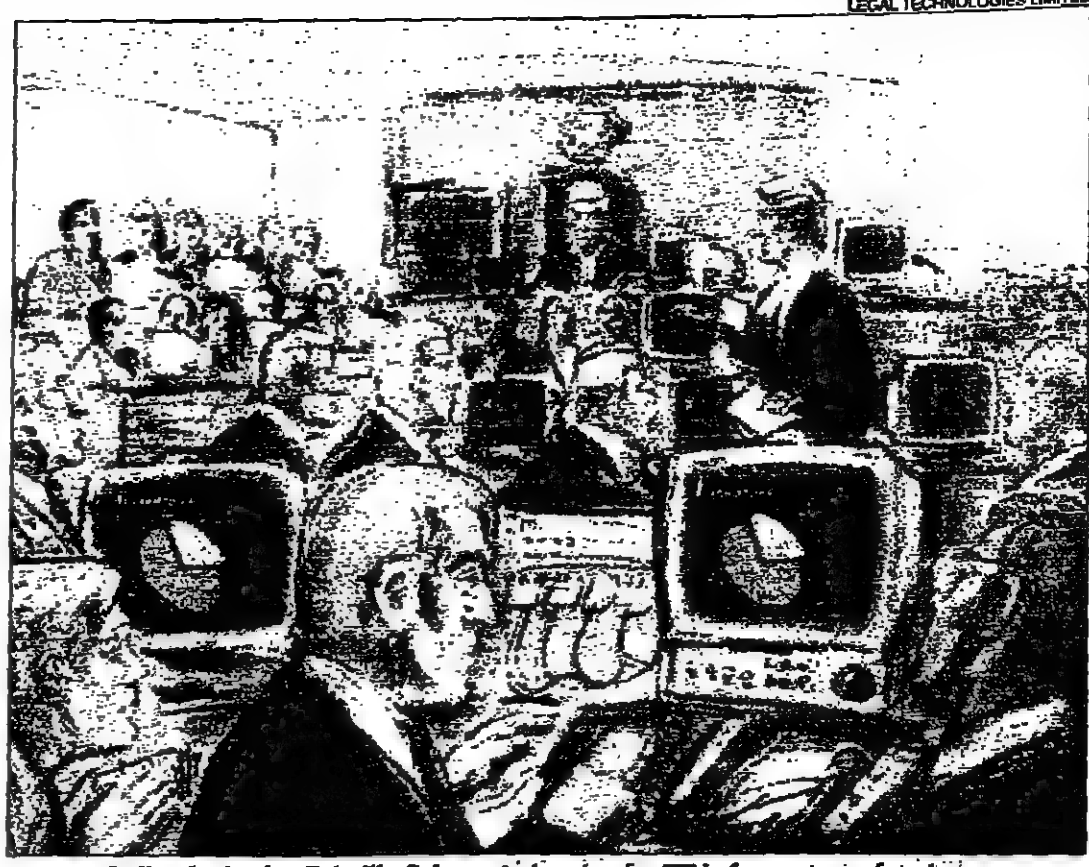
Among the latest entrants to the field is A. T. Kearney Executive Search, its lead consultant, Anna Puntin, says that many law firms are very precise about the kind of senior lawyers they want to attract in order to develop a corporate business plan. She emphasises that detailed research is a prerequisite for any successful search assignment. "We undertake original research for every assignment and work very hard at the preliminary stage to identify the people who

might fit the profile the client is seeking," she says. "We never simply draw on an existing list of possible candidates."

It is a sign of the times that most lawyers, when approached by headhunters, are deeply flattered and interested in the offer that might be made. The traditional allegiance to the partnership ideal seems to have been pretty well abandoned. Everyone, it seems, is waiting for the offer they can't refuse.

Confidentiality is, of course, the key to the headhunters' code. But that comes as second nature to most lawyers because discreet inquiries are often at the heart of a lawyer's work. So much so, in fact, that the use of private detective services is now a regular feature of many solicitors' practices.

From teasing out financial information in possible frauds to tracking down children in cases of custody, the private investigator has an important role in the life of many law firms. Drawn largely from the ranks of former police men and women (especially those from Scotland Yard), the importance of the professional investigator seems to be growing.



Online for justice: Priscilla Coleman's drawing for ITN of a mortgage fraud case

As Roger Wooley, the business development partner at the Bournemouth firm Lester Aldridge, says: "We have a network of about 25 private investigators in the UK whom we use. We know them well, trust them, and we keep going back so long as they continue to provide a reliable service. We

expect them to be as professional as we are ourselves."

The decision to use these services is part of the managerial skills of a law firm. In some cases money may be no object, but clients are going to look very critically at the results achieved by bringing in additional services. It is bound to push up the

overall price of the case. But it could also make the difference between winning and losing.

This is most acutely felt when it comes to expert witnesses. Though reforms to the current system have been proposed, we are still in a situation where each side, in a matter of litigation, can present sup-

posedly neutral expert witnesses. Sometimes it is the evidence given by these expert witnesses that can be crucial in court. Consequently, many experts are now available on the market as expensive "hired guns", who are able to produce a smooth court performance and convincing expertise.

In the case of forensic accountants, they may appear in court only rarely but their work in calculating the size of losses, damages or costs can provide the foundation of an action. Major firms such as KPMG and Brierley Hamlyn, for example, offer far-ranging forensic accountancy services that converge on real detective work. And as business goes global, so, too, do the services of lawyers and those who work with them.

Linguists, bailiffs, IT consultants, search-and-recruitment specialists — the list of the experts used by lawyers is becoming ever longer and more diverse. Effective team work is essential. But effective leadership from the lawyer is what ensures that this whole operation delivers results for the client.

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POP
Unsung hero?
A superb gig
at the Mean
Fiddler confirms
the abounding
talent of Joe Ely



WORLD
A little of Brazil,
a hint of jazz, a
touch of classical:
Egberto Gismonti's
eclectic sound
comes to London

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 1
Plenty of fun
in a touring
production of
The Frogs, but
not Aristophanes's
deeper meaning



THEATRE 2
Nice movement,
shame about the
speeches in
Nigel Charnock's
latest show,
Watch my Lips

POP: David Sinclair is spellbound by one of the best-kept secrets in the country-rock world

Outlaw who can't get arrested

Joe Ely
Mean Fiddler, NW10

What can be going through Joe Ely's mind as he starts another show at the Mean Fiddler? It is, to be sure, the finest honky-tonk in Harlesden, and on Friday night the bar is crammed to its 600 capacity. But, like the character in one of his songs, it must seem to him that "though so much time has passed, not that much has changed".

Now 48, Ely has gone beyond the point of playing the same game. Indeed, when the Texan arrived in Britain ten days ago, he declared himself unavailable for interviews, if anyone was asking, even though he remains virtually unknown beyond a small coterie of fervent admirers.

His 1970s band, the Flatlanders, became highly regarded as forerunners of country-rock, but only after they had split up. He tasted the fruit of wider acclaim when the Clash took him on tour in 1980 and he became an honorary, if somewhat unlikely, cult figure to the punk generation. But in 1996 he is surely just one more roadhouse veteran, seeing out his performing years the only way he knows how. Another day, another dollar, right?

Wrong! As he and his four-piece band wrap up a superb reading of Robert Earl Keen's *The Road Goes On Forever*, a typical tale of young love blighted by a life of crime, Ely seems genuinely taken aback by the intensity of the applause. And it quickly becomes apparent that with the songs from his new album,



A godfather of country-rock, and a hero of punk after touring with the Clash, Joe Ely is still stuck at square one in the mainstream fame game

Letter to Laredo, Ely has added yet another colour to a musical palette that already includes a vibrant mix of country, blues, rock, Tex-Mex and western swing.

This new dimension is provided by a Spanish flamenco guitarist called Tey, who sits on a stool at stage right, resplendent in a sequined mariachi jacket and a black

sombrero. On numbers such as *I Saw It In You*, *Saint Valentine* and the galloping *Run Preciosa*, he complements the yearning emotion of Ely's vocals with the most wonderfully stirring trills and crisp arpeggios, plucked with fiery precision on a nylon-stringed acoustic guitar. His solo introduction to *Letter to Laredo* is sensational, and

perfectly sets the scene for another story about a desperado doomed to roam the badlands with a "five-number bounty" on his head.

Whether because of a failure of judgment or nerve, though, Tey is laid off about three quarters of the way through, and Ely turns the stage over to his other guitarist, Jesse Taylor, a tattooed old-stager who

was a member of his first backing group in 1976. A conventional, Eric Clapton-influenced blues-rock player, Taylor steers the band back to more familiar territory, and while it is fun to hear old favourites such as *Dallas* and *Me and Billy the Kid*, the magic dissipates as they switch to autopilot for a version of the Buddy Holly and

the Crickets hit, *Oh Boy*. However, an encore of Terry Allen's *Gimme a Ride to Heaven*, Boy justifiably produces an ecstatic response, and for Ely it is clearly a case of striking a balance between indulging his sense of adventure and playing within the limits of his game. The road goes on forever, and he still has a long way to go.

Awful lot of echoes in Brazil

The stunning
guitarist and
pianist Egberto
Gismonti defies
classification,
says Tunku
Varadarajan



Gismonti: capable of moving between wildly different genres within a single piece

early 1970s in exile from the repressive military regime which ruled their country at the time. Gismonti is as free a musician as Gil and Veloso, and many would argue that he surpasses them by his invention — but he has scarcely a fraction of the accolade that they have won. In fact, *The Rough Guide to World Music*, which trumpets his name, says that it is "the complete handbook" makes not a single mention of him in nearly 700 pages.

Why is Gismonti not better known? The reason for this is, perhaps, straightforward: he is a cerebral guitarist and pianist, always coaxing his rigorous technique into new, ever more daring directions. Gil and Veloso, by comparison, sing in a beautiful language — Portuguese — to lively melodies. Their music is easy to listen to, compellingly simple. But Gismonti does his

listeners' attention as he moves mercurially from genre to genre, often within the same composition.

His classical training with the renowned Nadia Boulanger is everywhere apparent: a typical Gismonti composition plays out in extended form, with themes and variations. Boulanger taught him how to play the piano in Paris and he returned to Brazil and taught himself how to play the guitar. With these instruments — but

primarily the latter, of which he plays everything from the six to 14 string versions — Gismonti has moulded his own singular idiom.

There is a rich seam of jazz in his music (he has played and recorded with the saxophonist Jan Garbarek, the bassist Charlie Haden and the percussionist Naná Vasconcelos). There is often a homage to Ravel or Debussy or Bach in his piano; or a flavour of Stravinsky in his synopa-

tions, or of Philip Glass in the ostinato patterns on his guitar. At his most stylish there are also frequent flamenco infusions redolent of Segovia and there is samba, choro, bossa, baião, even frevo, all from Brazil.

Above all, it is Heitor Villa-Lobos, Brazil's only outstanding classical composer, who has consistently been his exemplar. Like him, Gismonti has submerged himself in the melodies and rhythms of Bra-

zilian folk music, melding them with the conventions and instruments of Europe. Yet while Villa-Lobos made the folk-tune classical, Gismonti has made the folk-tune... well, Gismonti.

Gismonti's musical path — where the new continent meets the old — was not cut by Villa-Lobos alone. Mention must be made of the illustrious Pixinguinha, who married his choro to the fox-trot and rag-time; and of Laurindo Almeida's jazz-samba.

Gismonti owes a debt, also, to Hermínio Pazual, the fat, white-bearded albino from Alagoas, in northeast Brazil. His was the most free-wheeling music in Brazil before Gismonti's, and Pazual's hunger for new sounds liberated a generation of musicians from their captivity to particular forms.

Gismonti's range also includes his country's Amerindian music, which he studied while living with a tribe near the Xingu River. An earlier album, *Sol do Meio Dia*, was shaped by his association with Sapain, an Indian shaman. At his last concert in London in March last year, a short Amerindian tune played as an encore on a reed flute was perhaps the highlight of the evening. Will he play it again this year? Do not bet on it, for there is no musician in the world harder to predict than Egberto Gismonti — even in Brazil.

● Egberto Gismonti performs at the Barbican, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) on Thursday at 7.30pm

Web of whingers

Watch my Lips
Drill Hall

rejection Di (Sherlock) is left with only fags — cigarettes and Adrian — for company.

The set by Simon Reeves, hints at a boxing ring, with the front row of the audience as the fourth rope and the others represented by drinks table, clothes rail and an oversize sofa.

At the start of the evening the four performers come forward and make stuttering attempts to suggest their feelings to us, ending when some invisible fiddler — I suppose it is "the rub of love" — renders them helpless. Another line in the same Dylan Thomas poem asks "Shall it be male or female?" which is the question the bisexual characters ask, although the arguments over the answers soon become repetitiously unresolved.

Howells masters a remarkable lip-synching number, and any scene with music works well enough because the male performers are better doing the synchronised dancing, falling, rolling and shivering than they are with their dreadful tirades. Harwood and Sherlock are the better all-round performers but the characters Charnock gives them are indefinite. A hundred minutes in their whinging company passed slowly.

When I last set off to see a Nigel Charnock production at this venue an electrical fault wiped the lighting from the block and the performance was cancelled. This time round, glumly listening to a character smart abuse at his former girlfriend, I would have welcomed another intervention from the Phantom Fusebox.

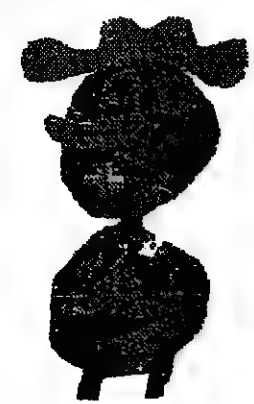
Whenever Charnock, co-founder of the performance group DV8 but now beating out his own route, brings choreography into his production the show sizzles with excitement: when he gives his characters their heavy, uninterrupted speeches the sizzle dies and I long for silence.

The only statement that future generations will associate with President Bush is the glib election promise that became a lie. Emotional lies are Charnock's subject here: he shows us a straight man, a gay man, a gay woman and a straight woman, entangling each other in the web of their demands.

The connections are not as rigorously schematic as in *La Ronde*. Gay Adrian (Adrian Howells) longs for satisfaction but finds none; gay Victoria (Victoria Harwood) — all four characters are given the names of their performers) finds a lot because she is happy to be bisexual. If the show bears any positive message it must be that bisexuals are best, since Christian (Flint) enjoys Adrian and looks like enjoying Victoria, while the

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THE orchestral list of the Philharmonia may not reveal many Slavic names, but Mikhail Pletnev knows just how to bring out the characteristically dark hues of Russian scores such as those by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky heard last Wednesday night. In *Alexander Nevsky*, the cantata-narrative made from his score for Eisenstein's film, the glacial sonorities that open the famous *Battle on the Ice* turned to vocal and instrumental battlecries that chilled the blood.

The mezzo soprano Irina Tchistjakova was an aptly warlike stage presence in *The Field of the Dead*, her plaintive tones admirably underpinned by a sombre orchestral fabric. The savagery, horror and triumph of war are portrayed graphically throughout the cantata. Miraculously, all three are brought together in the final movement, *Alexander's Entry into Pskov*, which Pletnev and his forces (the Philharmonia and its Chorus both on crackling form) delivered in suitably strident tones of jubilation.

There was savagery too in Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* ballet — or rather an ominous undercurrent of violence that erupted in the climactic *Death of Tybalt*. The four movements chosen brought some stunning playing from the Philharmonia, which also impressed with the precision of its ensemble in the Scherzo of Tchaikovsky's Suite No 3 in G. The middle section of that movement, with its cymbals and side-drum rolls, acquired, in Pletnev's hands, an eerie spectral quality. The essentially elegiac character of the first two movements was tellingly projected, the second rising to heights of passionate lyricism. A generous and imaginatively designed programme two nights later for the BBC Symphony Orchestra under

Dmitry Kitaenko brought together Schnittke's Symphony No 2 (St Florian), Bruckner's Te Deum and Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy*. The subtitle of the Schnittke symphony refers to the monastery near Linz where Bruckner is buried, Schnittke having conceived the work as a tribute to him.

The six movements of the symphony correspond to sections of the Catholic Mass, and there is a fair measure of plainsong intonation (stylishly delivered by the vocal ensemble Polyphony). The grotesque ironies characteristic of Schnittke's music are largely absent, although there is a spectacular double forearm smash for the organist in one movement, and a decidedly secular plucked double bass at the start of another. For the most part, however,

the mood is sombre, a quality well caught in Kitaenko's account.

Their massive sonorities and a good deal of C major apart, the Te Deum and the *Poem of Ecstasy* make an interesting juxtaposition more for their differences than their similarities. Where the Bruckner is grandiose and confident in its declaration of faith, the Scriabin is decadent and voluptuous ("molto languido" is one of its exotic markings). Kitaenko had the measure of both works in authoritative, skilfully structured and thrilling performances.

The Te Deum — with Christine Brewer, Hilary Summers, Keith Lewis and Robert Lloyd the fine soloists and the London Symphony Chorus in commanding form — was spacious and numinous. In its very different way, the Scriabin also sounded impressively organic. Although punctuating the progress of the wordless poem with clearly defined hiatuses, Kitaenko contrived to maintain a surging, unstoppable tidal flow.

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Clark denies link with England job

Stealthy Forest unable to throw caution to wind

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, the "Kaiser", landed in Nottingham yesterday afternoon, and gave the weather forecast. "It's very close, we know when we're coming to England, with the Nottingham Forest players in their home ground," he said. "They will come at us like a hurricane."

A hurricane? Forest's journey through the UEFA Cup this season has been built on stealth, caution and gentility that barely amounts to a tranquil breeze. They trail 2-1 after the first leg of the quarter-final against Bayern Munich in Germany a fortnight ago and indeed if they are to retrieve that, to make a last stand on behalf of British football at the City Ground tonight, they will need no distractions and full power.

Even then, those who witnessed the first leg in the Olympiastadion must regretfully suspect that Forest only kept the score down there by mass defence, by a style of anti-football that may be counted as heroic on the Trent, but merely prolongs the English presence without style. Therefore, the fog of confusion around Nottingham yesterday was almost whimsical. Newspapers had speculated that Frank Clark, the Forest manager, was about to join Terry Venables, to monitor his work, and then automatically to slide into the England coaching chair after the European championship in June.

"It's a total embarrassment," Clark said yesterday. "Really, it's a load of rubbish. I've had no contact, officially or unofficially with the Football Association and I don't know where this nonsense is coming from. But I do know that it's a distraction to our match which is important for everyone; we could do without it."

If the suggestion there is that flatterer comment, speculation though it may be, harms the preparations of Forest, then some of us do not believe a word of it. The Forest players, led by their warhorse captain, Stuart Pearce, are professional. They know the game, know the task, and if they are mindful at all to read

newspaper gossip stating that their manager is coveted at Lancaster Gate, then there are two ways in which that should stimulate professional footballers.

They could assume that there is some merit in the story, and that their "gaffer" is so highly-placed in the English game, that those players such as Steve Stone and even Ian Woan, who harbour ambitions of playing for England, ought to have incentive enough to put in a performance against the Germans that would make them irrefragable should Clark indeed get the job in the summer.

Otherwise, they can feel for Clark's embarrassment and run to the limit of heart and lung to make him feel that he is theirs and they hope the status quo remains. But harm their chances? Not at all.

It will also do no harm to Forest that Colin Cooper, suspended for the first leg, returns tonight, and how Forest

must welcome him given the space afforded to Jürgen Klinsmann for the first headed goal in Munich, and the way the weakened Forest rearguard opened up for the second.

Clark insisted yesterday that his team had been balanced and disciplined in Munich, had maintained their shape for all but 60 seconds that could yet prove irreparable. That, too, is an exaggeration, for the fact was that Bayern Munich, without looking remotely in the top echelons of the European game, were the masters of time and movement and, as Klinsmann admitted, should have put the tie beyond all doubt on their own pitch.

Klinsmann is likely to have to operate tonight without his forward partner, Zickler, who is losing the struggle against injury, while Forest will be close to full strength if, as seems probable, Bryan Roy passes a fitness test on the thigh strain that has handicapped him.

More to the point, Forest will operate more cautiously than Beckenbauer, the Bayern president, predicts. "We've had to play every game in a cagey way to get this far," Clark admitted in Munich. "We've not been able to go out and play an expansive, attractive game because we're not good enough." Exactly, the truth from an honest man who knows that Forest have played almost beyond their means to be the last survivor for the British game in European competitions this season, and survival football is seldom attractive.

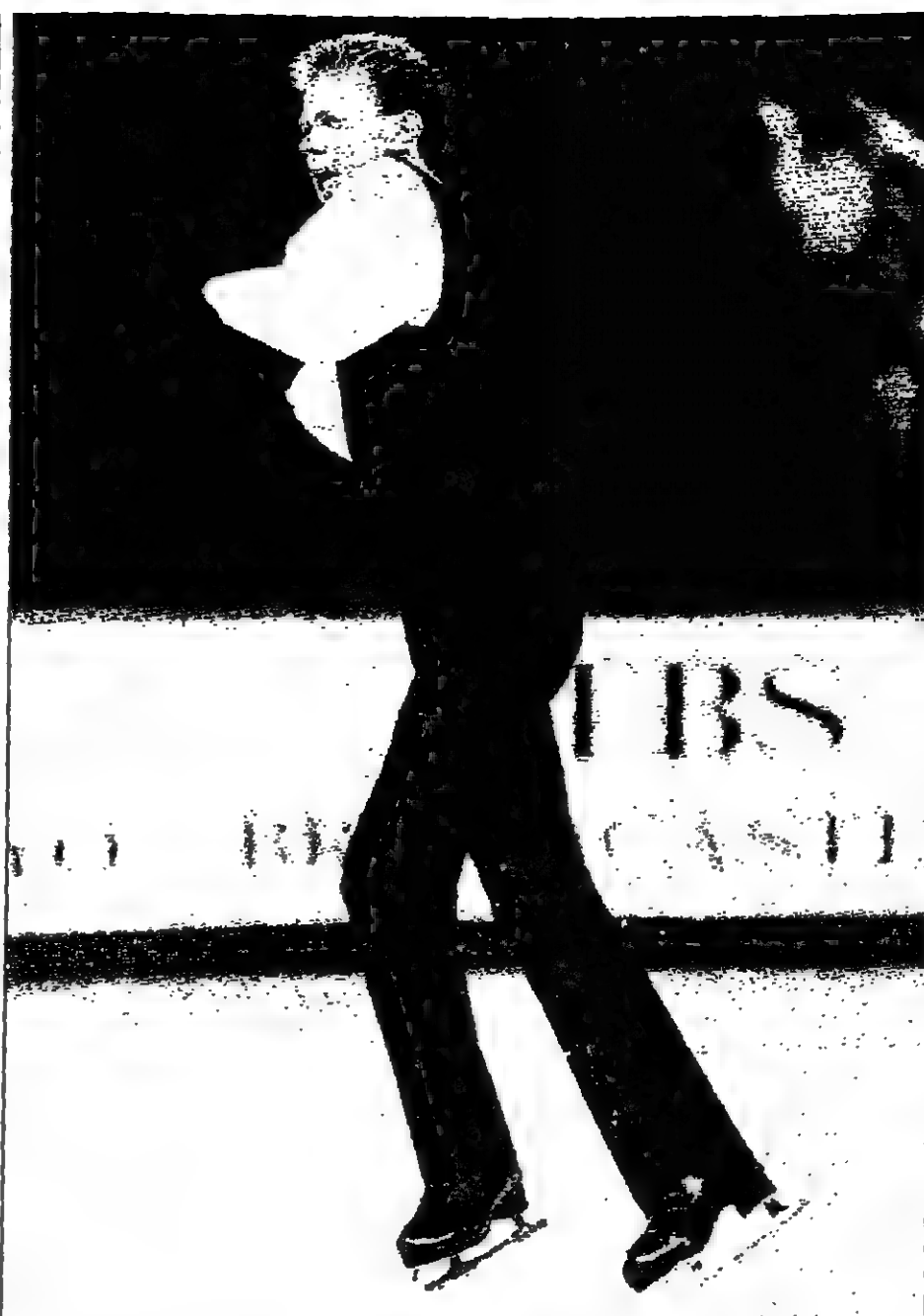
They can run to their hearts' content tonight, but each forward pace they take is liable to create just a little more space for the German counter-attack and German teams, for two decades or more, have been astute at that. There will, surely, be at least one goal tonight against the new Forest cut figure, Mark Crossley, the redoubtable goalkeeper. That goal would make it damnably hard for Forest, no matter how much their British spirit rises, to win — even with hurricane force.



Cooper: back in defence



Klinsmann: forward threat



Wilson spins at the world championships in Edmonton. Photograph: Denis Paquin

Galindo seeks perfection

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN EDMONTON

THE British contingent at the world skating championships here attended the men's qualifying competition to record the progress of Neil Wilson, 17, from Belfast, who was appearing at this level for the first time.

He performed well enough, finishing sixth in his group and gaining a place in the championships proper tomorrow and on Thursday. The travellers stayed, however, to marvel at the remarkable performance of Rudy Galindo, an American.

Until this year, Galindo, 26, was better known as the former partner of Kristi Yamaguchi, the 1992 Olympic solo champion. After their break-up in 1991, his career had taken a steady downward path: fifth in the United States championships in 1993, seventh

in 1994 and eighth in 1995.

There was nothing to overshadow his stunning victory at the championships this year, in January, which was highlighted by two perfect marks of 6.0 for artistic impression. He has insufficient funds to employ a coach, a function now filled by his sister, or own a car. He lives in a trailer; indeed, he would not have been able to compete in the national championships had they not been held in San Jose, his home town.

His personal life has been touched by tragedy. A brother and two former coaches have died of AIDS-related illnesses. His father of a heart attack. Yet he skated brilliantly at San Jose, and again in the qualifying session here yesterday. He can jump with the best of them and, artistically, he has few peers, let alone superiors. He finished yesterday with a superb combination spin that had the audience on its feet baying for more.

His followers still harbour doubts about his temperament, however. "Now he's got his head together, let's hope he keeps it that way for a few more days," one said.

Wilson skated quite beautifully, as he had done in qualifying at the European championships in Sofia in January, demonstrating once again his extraordinary purity of line and edge and musical appreciation. He does not, however, command the important triple axel and triple lutz movements and this will surely tell against him in the short programme tomorrow.

Henman's rapid rankings climb continues

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HENMAN, who reached the semi-finals of an ATP Tour event for the third time this year in Copenhagen last week, continues to climb the world rankings. His exploits in Denmark have taken him from No 64 to No 58 in the latest ATP positions announced yesterday.

Henman, 21, who reached the last four in Shanghai, China, last month, and in Rotterdam and Copenhagen in the past two weeks, is now only 13 places behind Greg Rusedski, the Briton born in Canada who, inactive last week, has dropped one place in the rankings to No 45.

Henman has made remarkable progress in the past nine months. In June 1995, he was ranked 26th in the world. If he continues to make significant progress, he could soon become the first British-born player to reach the top 50 since John Lloyd achieved that feat in 1985. Jeremy Bates, Britain's leading player for almost a decade before Rusedski's arrival and Henman's rise to prominence, never achieved a higher ranking than No 54.

Henman, Rusedski and Chris Wilkinson will be competing in the Lipton's championships, which start at Key Biscayne, in Florida, on Thursday. Other British world rankings announced yesterday include Wilkinson at No 131, Bates at No 177, Darnay Sapsford at No 179 and Mark Petchey at No 187.

Thomas Muster, of Austria, heads the list from Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, both of the United States. Michael Chang, another American, equalled his highest-ever position when he rose one place to No 4. His victory over Paul Hargreaves, of Canada, in the Newweek Championships Cup in Indian Wells, California, on Sunday took him past Boris Becker.

Chang, 24, who has failed to do himself justice in several big tournaments in the past year, said: "It is a great confidence booster for me. You never want to think about things that will make you not play up to your potential. You don't want to have those mental blocks. So this was good for me. Hopefully, the next time I play a grand slam final or another big tournament, I will just be able to concentrate on my game."

Underdogs present unexpected problems to English

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN ADELAIDE

AUSTRALIANS love underdogs and never more than when they are giving England, the old enemy, a run for their money. Local spectators had plenty to enjoy, therefore, during the opening stages of the men's world outdoor bowls championships in Adelaide yesterday.

In the pairs and in the triples, England struggled against less well-known opponents, securing victories only after seeing off unexpectedly determined challenges from Brazil and Zimbabwe. In the pairs, André Luiz Binello and Garoldo Sa Campos clearly relished their first taste of international competition and, after ten ends, were holding Tony Alcock and Andy Thomson to a 9-8 scoreline. The Brazilians then bowled to a 25-9 victory, however. Alcock and Thomson easing to a 25-9 victory.

In the triples, Brett Morley, David Cutler and John Bell struggled even more and, again after ten ends, trailed Hilton Marillios, Michael McNeill and Cedric Edwards, of Zimbabwe, 15-5. They recovered to win 18-17, but only after Bell had trailed the jack for a match-winning double with his last bowl.

Richard Corrie and Alex Marshall, of Scotland, the holders of the pairs title, squandered a 17-5 lead and went into the last end of their first match level, 20-20, with Donny Pickett and Neil Burket, of South Africa. The Scots slipped from 20-8 after 15 ends, allowing Pickett and Burket to compile a 3-2-1-4-2 sequence, before a Marshall draw to a ditched jack brought a 21-20 victory. Only Israel seem capable of stopping the holders reaching the semi-finals.

Joyce Lindores, of Scotland, won the women's British Isles indoor singles championship, the premier event at Llanelli yesterday, defeating Brenda Brown, of England, 21-10. Scotland also won the triples, Perth overpowered Swansea 21-8. Lorraine Woodley and Mary Price won the pairs for England, 25-17, against Cynthia Morgan and Julie Davies, of Wales. The fours final went to an extra end, with Rita Jones skipping her Wales team to a 19-16 win over England.

Foster ensures Wasps of place at Wembley

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

WITH one weekend of ice hockey's play-offs to go, two issues have been settled: Durham Wasps will be at Wembley and Eile Flyers will not. The Wasps maintained their 100 per cent record with an emphatic 5-0 win over Newcastle Warriors, Stephen Foster making 22 saves for his shut out.

Wayne Cowley, the Sheffield Steelers' goaltender, who had held the opposition scoreless in his previous two games, finally conceded a goal after 149 minutes and 44 seconds on the ice, but the Steelers still beat Eile 3-1 to go to the top of group A.

Basingstoke Bison, previously unbeaten, lost 6-3 to Nottingham Panthers. The win took the Panthers level with the Bison, a point behind the Steelers. Cardiff Devils have their work cut out if they are to qualify from group B. Beaten by Durham Wasps and Humber Hawks, they have only two points and must win both games next weekend to have a chance of reaching Wembley.

In the promotion-relegation play-offs, Manchester Storm were surprisingly beaten by Dumbfries Border Vikings, but, with two home games to come, should still win the group.

Faldo baffled by one of the easiest holes

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ORLANDO

NICK FALDO walked off the course after the final round of the Bay Hill Invitational golf tournament here on Sunday feeling downcast after a triple bogey at the fourth hole was followed by a warning for slow play, his second of the season.

Faldo finished on 282, six under par, after a round of 73, seven shots behind Paul Goydos, 31, the chirpy Californian of Czech origin who won for the first time with a 67 containing five birdies and no bogeys.

"My goal was a 66," Faldo said, "but the fourth putt paid to my good thoughts and the

warning did not help. They didn't seem to realise that taking eight takes longer than a guy taking four. I was already out of sync and trying to find my way back and I was upset."

The fourth, a par five of 530 yards, was statistically one of the easiest holes on the course, but it baffled Faldo, who played it in six over par for the week. It cost him the tournament and, on Sunday, he needed only one putt, a three footer, for his triple bogey after a series of horrors that included a buried lie and an algae-filled hazard. Nothing went right for him all day.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♠ 54
♥ 10 9 7 6 5
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ 2

♠ K J 7
♥ —
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ 10 9 7 6 5

S 2 NT 3 H
W Pass
N 3 D 6 NT
E Pass All Pass

Contract: 6 NT by South Lead: Ten of hearts

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Alekhine sacrifices
Over recent weeks, I have been commemorating the death of Alexander Alekhine, the great world champion. Alekhine died 50 years ago this month in Portugal. In fact, this coming weekend sees the exact time that Alekhine passed away, still in possession of the title. His games live on as superb examples of the art of attack.

Paradoxically, several of Alekhine's most outstanding games occurred in the early phase of his 1935 world championship match against Dr Max Euwe, the Dutch grandmaster.

In this contest, Alekhine shot into an early lead, producing attacking chess of a depth and subtlety not previously witnessed. Later in the match, though, Alekhine began seriously to underestimate his resourceful opponent, and a sequence of unjustifiable risks eventually cost him the title by one point.

The game today displays the type of sacrificial brilliance that Alekhine was producing in the early stages of this match. By giving up a piece, Alekhine pins White's king down in the centre and ultimately wins on material.

White: Max Euwe
Black: Alexander Alekhine
World championship match Holland 1935

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7

4 Qc3 dxc4
5 Qxc4 Bc5
6 Bb1 Qc6
7 Rd1 Qd5
8 Bc2 Qd4
9 Qc3 Qd4
10 Ne4 Nc6
11 Bc2 Qd5
12 Qc2 Qd4
13 Qd3 Qd5
14 Bc3 Qd5
15 Ne2 Qd5
16 Bc2 Qd5
17 Nc3 Qd5
18 Nf3 Qd5
19 Bc2 Qd5
20 Nf3 Qd5
21 Ng4 Qd5
22 Bc3 Qd5
23 Bf4 Qd5
24 Rd2 Qd5
25 Nc3 Qd5
26 Bc2 Qd5
27 Kd1 Qd5
28 Kc1 Qd5
29 Rxc2 Qd5
30 Rf2 Qd5
31 Rf1 Qd5
32 Bf4 Qd5
33 Bc7 Qd5
34 Kf1 Qd5
35 Bf4 Qd5
36 a3 Qd5
37 Kc1 Qd5
38 Rxc2 Qd5
39 Kd1 Qd5
40 Bc3 Qd5
41 Bf4 Qd5
42 Qc2 Qd5
43 Qc2 Qd5
44 Rf8 Qd5

White resigns

Diagram of final position

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

a b c d e f g h

White: Max Euwe

Black: Alexander Alekhine

World championship match Holland 1935

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 Nf6

2 c4 g6

3 Nc3 Bg7

4 Qc3 dxc4

5 Qxc4 Bc5

6 Bb1 Qc6

7 Rd1 Qd5

8 Bc2 Qd4

9 Qc3 Qd4

10 Ne4 Nc6

11 Bc2 Qd5

12 Qc2 Qd4

13 Qd3 Qd5

14 Bc3 Qd5

15 Ne2 Qd5

16 Bc2 Qd5

17 Nc3 Qd5

18 Nf3 Qd5

19 Bc2 Qd5

20 Nf3 Qd5

21 Ng4 Qd5

22 Bc3 Qd5

23 Bf4 Qd5

24 Rd2 Qd5

25 Nc3 Qd5

26 Bc2 Qd5

27 Kd1 Qd5

28 Kc1 Qd5

29 Rxc2 Qd5

30 Rf2 Qd5

31 Rf1 Qd5

32 Bf4 Qd5

33 Bc7 Qd5

34 Kf1 Qd5

35 Bf4 Qd5

36 a3 Qd5

37 Kc1 Qd5

38 Rxc2 Qd5

39 Kd1 Qd5

40 Bc3 Qd5

41 Bf4 Qd5

42 Qc2 Qd5

43 Qc2 Qd5

44 Rf8 Qd5

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6 Bb1 Qc6

7 Rd1 Qd5

8 Bc2 Qd4

9 Qc3 Qd4

10 Ne4 Nc6

11 Bc2 Qd5

12 Qc2 Qd4

13 Qd3 Qd5

14 Bc3 Qd5

15 Ne2 Qd5

16 Bc2 Qd5

17 Nc3 Qd5

18 Nf3 Qd5

19 Bc2 Qd5

20 Nf3 Qd5

21 Ng4 Qd5

22 Bc3 Qd5

23 Bf4 Qd5

24 Rd2 Qd5

25 Nc3 Qd5

26 Bc2 Qd5

27 Kd1 Qd5

28 Kc1 Qd5

29 Rxc2 Qd5

30 Rf2 Qd5

31 Rf1 Qd5

32 Bf4 Qd5

33 Bc7 Qd5

34 Kf1 Qd5

35 Bf4 Qd5

36 a3 Qd5

37 Kc1 Qd5

38 Rxc2 Qd5

39 Kd1 Qd5

40 Bc3 Qd5

41 Bf4 Qd5

42 Qc2 Qd5

43 Qc2 Qd5

44 Rf8 Qd5

White resigns

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White: Max Euwe

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Grünfeld Defence

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2 c4 g6

3 Nc3 Bg7

4 Qc3 dxc4

5 Qxc4 Bc5

6 Bb1 Qc6

7 Rd1 Qd5

8 Bc2 Qd4

9 Qc3 Qd4

10 Ne4 Nc6

11 Bc2 Qd5

12 Qc2 Qd4

Big handicap specialist completes Lincoln favourite's preparation

Akehurst puts edge on Sharp Prospect

By Dick Hinder

THE picture for Saturday's William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster became clearer yesterday when the five-day entry stage clarified running plans.

The ante-post favourite, Sharp Prospect, will be flexing his muscles on the Epsom gallops today. Reg Akehurst, his trainer, has a fine record in the big handicaps, and believes he has the horse in prime condition. The six-year-old won over the course and distance last year in the Spring Mile.

"He has got his summer coat on. It could be that he is a

ported that Hoh Express was "in good form" for his task and confirmed that champion jockey Frankie Dettori would ride.

Marcus Hosgood, racing secretary at Dunlop's Arundel yard, also seemed pleased yesterday with Beauchamp Jazz. "The preparation has gone smoothly. He will do his final piece of work over five furlongs tomorrow. John Reid takes the ride."

The Peter Harris-trained Delta Soleil, who will be ridden by Gary Hind, attracted strong support with Ladbrokes yesterday - 9-1 from 16-1 - after pleasing in his recent homework.

Demot Weld will decide today whether Silvan Bliss, a 25-1 shot with the sponsors, will take his chance.

Jack Berry, renowned for having the runners of his Cockerham stable ready to run at the Lincoln meeting, has entered Fredrik The Fierce in the Constant Security Brooklands Conditions Stakes for two-year-olds.

The trainer is hopeful his string will provide him with his usual stream of winners during the campaign's formative weeks.

"We've had an indifferent winter but we've got them as fit as we can. But, training here, I don't see a horse from another yard, so you are always guessing," he said.

"It's not like with the Newmarket boys. I remember when Mind Games won the Brooklands. I thought he looked good, but then when I saw the horses from Bili



Mind Games attempts to land a repeat victory for Berry in the Temple Stakes at Sandown next month

O'Gorman's and the other Newmarket yards, they looked like they had come out of a greenhouse, and ours looked like they had come out of the fridge."

Berry runs his 1,000 Guineas, My Melody Parkes, in the Neil Gwyn Stakes at

Newmarket on April 16, and her trainer is confident she has improved over the winter.

Berry, yet to win a group one race in Britain, is also hopeful his crack sprinter Mind Games will enjoy better fortune this year than in 1995. The Puissance colt, who

supplied the trainer with his first Royal Ascot winner when claiming the Norfolk Stakes as juvenile, made a promising start to his season last spring, only to disappoint when odds-on for the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Nunthorpe Stakes at York.

"This year, I hope Mind Games will end up as champion sprinter," Berry said. Mind Games will attempt to gain a repeat victory in the group two Temple Stakes at Sandown - which he achieved by an impressive three lengths from Millstream last year.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MR COPYFORCE (3.30 Fontwell Park)
Next best: Bitacrac (3.20 Uttoxeter)

spring horse as he did win the consolation race very easily last season," the Epsom trainer said. Akehurst's contender will work under big-race jockey, Richard Quinn, over six furlongs on the Epsom gallops.

Backers anticipating the withdrawal of top weights, Decorated Hero, Cadeaux Tryst and Tarawa, were not disappointed with all three coming out, which leaves the Ian Balding-trained Hoh Express and John Dunlop's Beauchamp Jazz jointly heading the weights on 9st 10lb. Ian Balding yesterday re-

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Sharp Prospect	Beauchamp Jazz	Delta Soleil	Moving Arrow	Beyond Doubt	Billy Bushwacker	Roving Minstrel	Sawm	Shinerolla	Hoh Express	Fame Again	Charlie Sillett
Sharp Prospect	6-1	7-1	10-1	12-1	14-1	16-1	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1
Beauchamp Jazz	10-1	12-1	14-1	16-1	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1
Delta Soleil	12-1	14-1	16-1	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1
Moving Arrow	14-1	16-1	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1
Beyond Doubt	16-1	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1
Billy Bushwacker	18-1	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1
Roving Minstrel	20-1	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1	42-1
Sawm	22-1	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1	42-1	44-1
Shinerolla	24-1	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1	42-1	44-1	46-1
Hoh Express	26-1	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1	42-1	44-1	46-1	48-1
Fame Again	28-1	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1	42-1	44-1	46-1	48-1	50-1
Charlie Sillett	30-1	32-1	34-1	36-1	38-1	40-1	42-1	44-1	46-1	48-1	50-1	52-1

After the trials of the Cheltenham Festival, where just one favourite obliged in 20 races, there is no respite for ante-post backers, who are now faced with the first major betting race of the flat season, the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster.

Reg Akehurst's Sharp Prospect won the consolation race for runners bailed out of the Lincoln last year, and given his excellent record in the big handicaps, it is understandable that the bookmakers have made him favourite. However, he is 6lb higher in the weights now, and after an absence of 11 months makes limited appeal.

Lynda Ramsden, who sent out High Premium to win this race three years ago, is represented this time by Fame Again. She is ideally suited by being held up in a fast run race, which she is sure to get in Saturday's country chase and makes some appeal at 28-1, but may be a shade high in the handicap.

The lightly-raced Beyond Doubt is potentially well handicapped but surely needs further than a mile, and Delta Soleil makes much more appeal. He showed progressive form last year, and proved his ability to cope with large fields when a close third to Tarawa on his final outing at Newmarket. His trainer, Peter Harris, saddled a winner on the all-weather at Southwell yesterday and clearly has his string well forward.

Shinerolla was sold by the Ramdens for 40,000 guineas at the end of last season, and showed that he retains all of his ability for his new trainer, Colin Parker, when third on the all-weather at Wolverhampton last month. At 28-1 with the Tote, SHINEROLLA offers solid each-way value.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER
2.20 Father Power 3.50 Mr Rossini
2.50 Celtic Ceilidh 4.20 Call The Shots
3.20 Eastern River 4.50 Andrah
5.20 Nova Run

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.20 WILD WEST HIND.
Our Newmarket Correspondent:
4.20 ANDROS PRINCE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.20 WORTHINGTON DRAUGHT RITERS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (2m 110yd) (14 runners)

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Disturbing ideas on the good news beat

Martyn Lewis's tireless pursuit of good news appears to be leading him in some curious directions. After last night's instalment of *Crime Beat* (BBC1), the series which aims to show that life isn't quite as frightening as *Crime-watch* says it is, his nearest and dearest will view an invitation to stay chez Lewis with dismay.

Lewis, you see, has seen the future of domestic crime prevention and he likes it. He likes it a lot. It is called a domestic surveillance system, which is basically just like all those closed-circuit television systems we see in shopping centres, but in our home.

This was clearly good news for those who make a living from assembling compilations of such clips ("Quick, we've been burgled, call Jeremy Beadle") but did it really represent progress for the rest of us? Lewis was convinced it did.

A pillar of respectability in double-breasted grey flannel, Lewis is beside himself. "The beauty of your own home surveillance system," he began, in the super-serious tones that he reserves for moments of extreme good news, "is that it allows you to check on what is happening in and around your own home without leaving your armchair."

The "around" I didn't have a problem with (we had already been introduced to the "first butler in Britain to be convicted by video") but surely there was something just a tad unhealthy about the "in"? Not for Lewis. Those famous cherubic features by now positively aglow, he bounded up the stairs to show us the full potential of a system. One ingenious couple, he told us, had even hidden a camera in a smoke alarm so they could keep an eye on their sleeping newborn.

Two things. Why had they

hidden the camera if it was only monitoring a baby and where had they hidden the one in the spare room currently occupied by Uncle Fred and that nice, new Auntie Helga?

No problem with hidden cameras in *This Life* (BBC2), just a film unit and a director shouting: "You're in a shower darlings, so naturally you don't have any clothes on — so stop hiding behind that curtain worrying about whether the script justifies it or not. Let us see 'Which is more presumable, Milly (Anita Dhir) and Egg (Andrew Lincoln) were persuaded to step forth, clad only in their artistic integrity."

The idea for a drama based on the communal life of five young lawyers was apparently Michael Jackson's, the Controller of BBC2. Early on, you get the impression that some brave soul must have said: "Isn't that a little like

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Friends and got horribly slapped down. The order went out: on no account was *This Life* to be anything like *Friends*, the American-made Channel 4 sitcom.

The order worked. Nobody, for instance, takes their clothes off in *Friends* (which, I think, is a pity). Nor do they swear, drink and take drugs — all in excess. They do in *This Life*, which even after years of hardened television watching

came as a bit of a surprise. The sex, however — so far much talked about but only modestly practised — did not.

By the end of this reasonably promising first episode, four of our five friends were sharing the house which, rather like the Edinburgh flat in *Shallow Grave*, may yet turn out to be the star. A rundown, high-ceilinged, stucco pile, it immediately makes you wonder why they are bothering with the legal profession at all, rather than going straight into property development.

The four in residence are Milly and Egg, who are an item, and Miles (Jack Davenport) and Anna (Daniela Nardini), who, despite a much-referred-to one night stand, are not. The fifth, Warren, is gay, from South Wales and in therapy. The film had some immensely emotive footage — of the *Pescado* lying on the seabed, of her finally being winched to the surface and of the rusty, barnacle-encrusted

wreck being towed into Plymouth Sound, some two and half years after she had set out for sea scaplo dredging. But the most poignant of all was a video recording of the accident investigators successfully inflating the boat's life raft, despite the fact that it was four years past its inspection and had spent 30 months underwater. If it had been mounted properly, rather than lashed to the boat as the film alleged, lives might have been saved.

But the film also had a flaw. It was too close to Alan Ayres, the businessman who invested in the boat and, after her sinking, became convinced (and spent a lot of time convincing the media) that the boat had been sunk by a submarine. To this day nobody knows — as the film eventually made clear — what sank the *Pescado*. We had spent too long chasing one man's so-far unprovable conspiracy.

6.00am Business Breakfast (25/97)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (56/08)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Coastal) (67/917)

9.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (22/757)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (80/4722)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (35/782)
11.00 News (Coastal), regional news and weather (21/5857)

12.05pm Turnabout (s) (57/1529)
12.30 Going for a Song (s) (40/364)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Coastal) and weather (51/555)

1.30 Regional News and weather (16/5838)
1.40 Neighbours (Coastal) (s) (94/2345)

2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (84/7008)

2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man. The final part of the repeated soap serial with Peter Strauss and Nick Nolte (11/4722)

3.30 Arts in Your Parts (s) (80/5967) 3.50 Orville and Cuddles (s) (40/3349) 3.55 ChuckleVision (s) (60/7222) 4.15 Free Willy (Coastal) (s) (13/3777) 4.35 Run the Risk (Coastal) (s) (26/4616) 5.00 Newsworld (Coastal) (35/4008) 5.10 Grange Hill (Coastal) (s) (12/3616)

5.35 Neighbours. Mal and Storie experience male bonding while Libby becomes Mark's latest victim. Ren discovers her dreams (s) (Coastal) (s) (17/4511)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Coastal) (83/5)

6.30 Regional News magazines (88/7)

7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando sets off for Elba, praised by Napoleon but largely undiscovered by British visitors. Monty Don rents a farmhouse in Polseena, northern Malawi. Kirsty Young visits Virgin Gorda in the Caribbean and charts a yacht round the neighbouring islands; and Diana Medley travels through Cork, staying at private country houses (Coastal) (s) (71/54)

7.30 EastEnders. Phil devises a plan to keep Peggy off Pat's back, and Pat shows David who's boss (Coastal) (s) (87/1)

8.00 Sportnight. Nottingham Forest v Bayern Munich. Live coverage of the UEFA Cup quarter final, second leg, introduced by Des Lynam with Alan Hansen and Jimmy Hill. Commentary from John Motson and Trevor Brooking (s) NB: In the event of a draw at full time, subsequent programmes may run late (82/22513)

8.55 News (Coastal), regional news and weather (53/438)

10.25 They Think It's All Over. The comedian Nick Hancock compares a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker joined by Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. Sharon Davies and Bob Mills are this week's guests (Coastal) (s) (41/3006) 11.10 10.25 News. Truths 11.05 They Think It's All Over 11.35 FILM: All the President's Men 1.50am Weather

10.55 FILM: All the President's Men (1978) starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. Political drama about an investigation by *The Washington Post* which resulted in the Watergate scandal. Directed by Alan J. Pakula. (67/447971)

1.10am Weather (85/1423)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. The Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record VideoPlus+ (V+), Pluscode (P+) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Understanding Space and Time (96/3548) 6.25 Animal Physiology: Time to Be Born (94/5155) 6.50 Oceanography (87/5313)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (12/8703) 7.30 Stingray (s) (Coastal) (33/61)

8.00 Blue Peter (s) (Coastal) (s) (54/1548) 8.25 Oakie Doke. Animation (s) (89/72548)

8.40 The Record (s) (60/59819)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Larnach (s) (67/8884) 9.25 See Me, See Me (s) (68/1548) 9.45 Watch (s) (90/4513)

10.00 Playdays (s) (43/5935) 10.25 Come Outside (s) (16/7744) 10.45 The Experiment (s) (81/0039) 11.05 Space Ark (s) (61/8242) 11.15 Clemence (s) (88/2548) 11.30 Teaching Today (s) (66/13) 12.00 See Hear (s) (Coastal) (s) (10/35) 12.30pm Working Lunch (48/06) 1.00 Teaching Today (s) (57/797) 1.30 Showcases (s) (22/36221) 1.40 Hotch Potch House (s) (94/79067) 2.00 Oakie Doke (s) (s) (20/48063)

2.10 The Andrew Hall Show (s) (41/3667) 3.00 News (Coastal) and weather (89/5613)

3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (Coastal) (s) (84/2068) 3.55 News (Coastal) (40/3228)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (88/4)

6.00 Esther (11/8) 6.30 The Village (17/4722) 6.58 Turning Points (89/567)

6.58 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (11/8222) 6.25 Heartbreak High (Coastal) (s) (35/6631)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. Cult cartoon series (Coastal) (s) (63/1068)

7.30 From the Edge. Professor Mike Oliver explores the common misconceptions about wheelchair users (Coastal) (s) (51/3)

8.00 Public Eye. John McGhee reports on the failure of existing sex-offender treatment programmes to reform convicted rapists (Coastal) (s) (7/364)

8.30 Food and Drink. In the second of a two-part celebration of food producers around Britain, Chris Kelly introduces a report on cider-brandy in Somerset (Coastal) (s) (87/1)

9.00 Murder One. Lisa (Grace Phillips) Gillespie defends a businessman accused of gambling. This clients' savings (Coastal) (s) (83/3634)

9.45 Straight from the Heart. The third of six documentaries in which people talk about their real-life love stories explore how the need for love can blind a person to another's faults (Coastal) (s). Followed by Video Nation Shorts (94/529)

10.30 Newswatch (Coastal) (24/918)

11.15 The All-New Altona Sketch Show. Comedy sketches (s) (s) (31/1180)

11.45 Holiday Outings (12/155)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (36/778)

12.30-6.00am The Learning Zone

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CHOICE

Island. 4.40pm

The publicity for this teenage drama misleadingly suggests a British version of *Baywatch*. Jersey, where it is based, may offer sun, sea, sand and excitement for the seven young people at the heart of the story, but do not expect rippling muscles and suntans.

The script by Adele Rose, creator of *Byker Grove* and long of *Coronation Street*, and her daughter, Carrie, are more serious than that. The seven have arrived from the mainland, not all in the happiest of circumstances. Cathy is escaping a violent home life, while Sandra has run away two weeks before her wedding. Louise is an aspiring dancer, who flouts both her body and her ambition, and Danny is an upstart banker. The most sympathetic character, whether by accident or design, is gay, *Island* has the makings of a quality series.

Without Walls. 9.00pm

Janet Street-Porter launches tonight's double bill with a tirade against the Internet and the "nerds" who use it. In her view the net serves up second-hand information and mindless waste to the socially challenged. Nor does she think it smart to get repetitive strain injury ordering a pizza. In her support she calls Times columnist John Diamond and Ian Hislop of *Private Eye*. But there are powerful voices on the other side. Also in *Without Walls*, Joe Quennan, an American film critic, comes to Britain and sets out to debunk the British society by pretending to be a socialite. He is joined by the comedian Hugh Grant. But the impersonation is hardly in the Rory Bremner class and in any case, apart from mocking Hugh, the point of the exercise is obscure. The running joke is that everybody Quennan/Grant meets thinks Tim Roth is a better actor.

And the Beat Goes On... Channel 4, 10.00pm

From the *Brookside* stable comes an eight-part story of Liverpool folk who lived just before the Beatles arrived. Joe Alnow's script covers a broad canvas and the large number of characters means that the opening episode is largely a scene-setter. But there are hints of themes to come. One is the class divide, as exemplified by the families at the heart of the narrative. The Spencers and O'Rourkes are destined to become entwined through their offspring. But for the moment the Spencers are comfortably middle-class, and boast a would-be Tory MP, while the O'Rourkes are staunchly proletarian. Alnow's script also explores the sexual climate of the day, reminding us that in 1960 abortions and homosexual acts were still illegal and had to be pursued furtively. Stephen Moore, Jenny Agutter and Norman Rossington head the cast.

Savage Skies. 10.40pm

Weather is the subject of this four-part series. big, spectacular, destructive weather that desolates the landscape and takes lives. The commentary warns to the task by talking about thunderheads with the power of a nuclear bomb, hailstones that can kill livestock and hurricanes that may engulf the land and light the United States for six months. If only they could be harnessed, that is, Rain is the topic for tonight. We hear from survivors of the flash flood which devastated the Devon village of Lynmouth in 1952. From Colorado a middle-aged man still mourns the loss of his wife, who was swept away in a huge wave after 12 inches of rain fell in one evening. Bombay, by contrast, is praying for the arrival of the monsoon, that will bring relief from the sweltering heat.

Peter Waymark

Attention and Wickham (9.00pm)

9.00 Peak Practice: Looking Back. Will's professional relationship with Erica suffers a setback when she is thrown off balance by some unexpected arrivals in Cardale. Starring Edward Atterton and Saskia Wickham (Teletext) (s) (30/58)

10.00 News (Teletext) and weather (11/150)

10.40 Regional News (Teletext) (45/772)

10.40 Savage Skies. Series Five and Six. Rain (Teletext) (44/923)

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (29/045)

12.00am FILM: Spring and Port Wine (1989). Drama about the tensions between two generations of a Bolton family. With James Mason and Susan George. Directed by Peter Hammond (44/579)

2.30 Late and Loud (s) (35/2597)

3.25 The Chart Show. Featuring the rock chart, and Andy Grant sings Baby, Baby in the Video Vault (s) (s) (24/32646)

4.25 Football Extra (s) (83/4458)

5.00 The West at Work (39/652)

5.30 ITN News (24/93). Ends at 6.00

6.00am GMTV (58/0028)

9.25 Wins, Loss or Draw (s) (23/2258)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (44/3884)

10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (66/7577)

10.35 This Morning (98/27971)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (20/4971)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (73/1338)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (79/1629)

1.25 High Road (Teletext) (63/4780)

2.00 Home and Away. Kelly might be HIV positive (Teletext) (s) (30/70513)

2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (30/892548)

2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (44/8345)

3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (39/0203)

3.25 Regional News (47/0744)

3.30 The Magic House (s) (58/4548) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (28/2703) 3.50 Soapy and Co (s) (68/4471) 4.15 Animaniacs (s) (Teletext) (s) (91/2118)

4.40 Island. Series about seven young people on the island of Jersey (Teletext) (18/7567)

5.10 Animal Country (97/5819)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (69/1074)

6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (45/528)

6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (39/109)

6.50 Emmerdale. Zoe and Emma's peace is shattered by an old flame. Terry and Viv spend the night together (Teletext) (s) (22/42)

7.30 West Eye View (Teletext) (567)

8.00 The Bill: Getting Off. Boulton has a difference of opinion with drugs worker Linda Evans (Teletext) (s) (48/0)

8.30 Married for Life. Sixteen Years and What Do You Get. Pam and Ted celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary (Teletext) (s) (77/97)

9.00 Peak Practice: Looking Back. Will's professional relationship with Erica suffers a setback when she is thrown off balance by some unexpected arrivals in Cardale. Starring Edward Atterton and Saskia Wickham (Teletext) (s) (30/58)

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8.00 The Bill: Getting Off. Boul

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Chinese evacuate islanders ahead of new war games

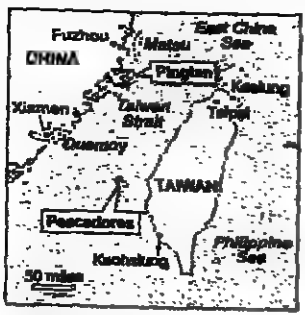
FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA and Taiwan evacuated residents from small off-shore islands where Peking was due to start new land, sea and air exercises yesterday.

The war games are designed to influence Saturday's first direct presidential elections in Taiwan, as American warships sail off the country's eastern coast. But officials in Taipei said they thought fog and heavy seas had delayed the manoeuvres.

A state radio official on Pingtan island, a command post for the Chinese war-games, said Peking had ordered people on dozens of small islands in the northern section of the Taiwan Strait to evacuate to the mainland, a few miles away.

The order was issued by the radio station yesterday at the request of the People's Liberation Army and Government, though no time was given for the start of the exercises, which are the third in a series.



PLA tanks, troops, transporters and other vehicles were seen in the streets of Pingtan, off Fujian province and the nearest mainland-held island to Taiwan, officials said.

Fishermen were forced to stop operations in the area, sending fish prices soaring. Taiwan's financial markets, which have been buffeted by the crisis, were calm.

Local people said many military planes were flying over Pingtan and a large

number of naval vessels were in port. Residents along the eastern coastline said city airports had been taken over and thousands of troops were being moved in for the exercises, which are the closest ever to be held to Taiwanese territory.

The Taiwan authorities have also evacuated outlying islets. A Reuters photographer on the Taiwan-controlled islet of Tung Chu, ten miles from China's exercise zone, watched as an air-raid drill sent all 87 remaining residents into shelters in near-silence. "All shops were immediately closed and streets are completely empty," Simon Kwong reported.

□ Kathmandu: At least a hundred Tibetans and members of Amnesty International-Nepal were arrested here during protests over human rights abuses in China, police and Amnesty said. (AFP)

Leading article, page 17

Ageing tanks growl defiance

FROM DAVID WATTS IN Hsin-chu AND JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN TAIPEI

COOL reflection is in the nature of Lieutenant-General Gao An-gun.

Taiwan is being slowly squeezed by Peking's army of three million and some of its inhabitants are fleeing outlying islands to escape the latest war games, but the general, who resembles the tanks he put on show yesterday — middle-aged, powerful and with a growl in his voice — stands firm.

"Our tanks are pretty old," he says at the 3rd Armoured Division's base at Hsin-chu, an hour's drive south of Taipei. "But so are theirs. We can be mobilised pretty quickly if we have to, but I do not think that will be for a long time. Are we ready for anything? Well, what is anything? Whatever it is, it will not be soon."

His tanks and self-propelled guns clanked through Hsin-chu's sticky red day and, under a freezing rain, soldiers charged at "enemy



Taiwanese troops carry a shell during an exercise in the north of the island yesterday involving 60 tanks

positions that flew the Communist flag. On the surrounding hills huge signs proclaimed "One heart, one mind, one country: resist the Communists". Signs like this appeared at one time on nearly every wall in Taiwan. But over the past ten years of little tension, they have become steadily less relevant. Of course, if action comes, it will not be in Hsin-chu's red hills and it will not be in exchanges of tank fire. It will be on beaches, like the one on the northern tip of Taiwan where earlier in the day Nationalist soldiers impersonating the People's Liberation Army

stormed ashore to be repelled by Taiwanese defenders. It would be on such a beach that Taiwan's final battle would be fought. The Chinese Army, if it got that far, would have to be stopped there. Once it was inland, General Gao's tanks would not last long against what would be a

landing force of 750,000 men, more than twice the size of Taiwan's entire army. However, nobody thinks that that kind of struggle is imminent. Indeed, the tank brigade at Hsin-chu, General Gao said, is at readiness level five, the least "ready" on a scale of one to five.

History bequeaths a jumble of clues to sovereignty

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN TAIPEI

IN THE run-up to Saturday's presidential election, the real issue for many Taiwanese is that although they are ethnically Chinese, politically they identify with the island.

For them the period since 1945, when Nationalist China resumed control of Taiwan after losing it to Japan in 1945 after the Sino-Japanese War, has no relevance. Fervent proponents of independence describe the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek, who ruled Taiwan after 1949, as a rabble defeated by the Communists.



and with no mandate to re-establish China's authority over the island.

"We never asked them to come," a Taiwanese patriot explained at a recent rally of people opposed to President Lee Teng-hui's bid to be the first popularly elected President in Chinese history.

Although Mr Lee is a Taiwanese, his opponents claim that deep down he longs for some form of reunification with mainland China, a claim that would surprise the Communist hierarchy in Peking.

But in the future, how secure is Peking's claim to Taiwan? In 1936, Mao Tse-tung had stated that when China regained its full

strength it would make no claim to Taiwan as a lost territory but would help the island in its "struggle for independence".

Quoting the Great Helmsman's statement is certain to rattle Peking when it makes its bellicose assertions that China is Taiwan's sovereign. But it holds little more weight than other Mao mots such as "Childbirth is not painful, only women think it is".

China's claim of sovereignty is not ancient. Peking exercised various degrees of control over Taiwan, increasingly settled by Han who drove the non-Han peoples into the mountains, until 1623, when it was ceded to the Dutch. They lost it to a Chinese pirate, Koxinga, in 1662. In 1683, the newly established Manchu dynasty regained the island. In 1887, Taiwan was incorporated as a fully fledged province until it was lost to Japan, in accordance with the Treaty of Shimonoseki of 1895.

In Cairo in 1943, China's right to regain Taiwan was endorsed, and in 1945 Chiang's troops took control. They treated the island like a captured enemy stronghold, looting it. In 1947, they massacred thousands of indigenous Taiwanese who demonstrated against their "liberators".

The Chinese claim to Taiwan is not as venerable as the 700-year case it makes for Tibet, which in any case is rejected by most non-Chinese historians. Ma Han-bao, a Grand Justice of Taiwan's Supreme Court, observed yesterday that "length of claim to ownership of land is irrelevant unless there is a prior claim. The length of the period has nothing to do with its legitimacy, as long as the claim is made legally and peacefully. Surely neither the Dutch nor Japan make such a prior claim. If Taiwan is not China's, whose is it?"

This will not please the independence movement, but then its argument is nationalistic and political, not legal.



Chiang: his forces seen as "rabble with no mandate"

Peking masses stick to everyday worries

BY JAMES PRINGLE

PEKING residents are more concerned about inflation, unemployment, official corruption and deteriorating law and order than about the crisis in the Taiwan Strait. The idea that war could break out seems almost unthinkable.

"I really have not considered a war at all," said one of two young professional women outside the Guoyu department store in central Peking. "There are enough other matters to concern us — like housing for young couples."

Many seem to agree with the Government's view that Taiwan is part of China, and that the US should not interfere. However, ordinary Chinese have little access to information outside the state-controlled media.

Chinese are more ready to talk to foreign journalists in public than in the years after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. Of more than 20 Chinese approached on a busy

main street yesterday, only one young couple said they had "no views, as the situation is not clear".

"This is a trial of strength between two states, China and the US," said a secretary, 25. "China has a secret weapon for dealing with these carriers," noted a 36-year-old clerk.

A man selling pirated CDs asked how many US aircraft carriers were involved and who supplied Taiwan with arms, then added: "But I can't keep up with that. All my energies are channelled into making a living."

Two 18-year-old schoolgirls said China had to act to prevent Taiwan declaring independence. "We discuss this a lot at school," one said.

A young woman researcher was less in line with party doctrine: "If there is a war with the US, the Americans would suffer more because they live in heaven. Chinese already live in hell on earth, so in a war what would we lose?"

Spend time arriving at the decision, not travelling to the meeting

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Riders of the storm pursue the ultimate thrill

LARRY MILLER/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Tucson, Arizona, the lightning capital of America, was the setting for the world's first convention of storm-chasers. They prefer to call themselves "severe weather interceptors", but "madcaps" might do as well. These are people who, at the first sign of deadly weather, will leap into a fast car and drive towards a tornado to photograph and study it, as well as revel in the dare.

Storm-chasing, provincial America's latest growth activity, will next month receive a boost with the release of a Steven Spielberg film called *Twister*. It features terrifying shots of real tornadoes, so destructive that those from the bluestriest parts of Britain will find hard to imagine.

Storms kill many people and cause millions of pounds of damage every year across the United States. The huge land mass creates unstoppable tempests. The storm season begins with tornadoes riding in from the Gulf of Mexico in mid-April, moves to thunder and lightning in the West during high summer, and concludes with Florida's autumnal hurricanes. At every stage, storm-chasers are there, whooping at the thrill.

■ Tornado-chasing is rural America's latest growth activity. At their first conference, Quentin Letts heard the hunters swap weather notes in Tucson

It was a mixed group that attended the conference here at the weekend: men and women, young and old, from computer buffs to farmers, photographers and retired meteorologists. The weather in Tucson was, to general contempt, dry and sunny, although Mel Walker, a whiskey Alabamian, peered hopefully at a cloud formation on the horizon. He was one of about 70 enthusiasts who attended the conference to swap storm knowledge, boasting about violent winds the way anglers describe fish.

"Had a vortex last year there pass right through my backyard," claimed a wild-haired man displaying storm photographs. "Took the roof off of my barn." His companion, a fat fellow, chuckled so much his spare tyre wobbled. "Ever seen a flash flood?" he asked in reply, indicating with satisfaction that he, for one, sure had.

The conference was organised by Warren Fairley, the only professional storm-chaser in the world and a man whose nose for a storm is respected by the emergency services, whom he alerts to incoming big blows. Mr Fairley, a former photographer for the *Tucson Citizen* who spends several months a year on the road in pursuit of severe weather, can literally smell a storm. "The moisture comes up from the Gulf, a haze develops and you can smell the ocean," he said, claiming a 70 per cent accuracy on storm forecasts.

The storms have various names — dust-devils, landspouts, funnels, twisters and tornadoes — and rotate at speeds of up to 300mph. At the height of the season in Kansas and Oklahoma, scores of chase vehicles speed across the flatlands, scouring the horizon for the big storm — and the perfect photograph. They do not often get speeding tickets. "Police are usually too busy speeding in the other direction," came the wry explanation.

Phil Henry, an engineer from Las Vegas, showed off his custom-built, cloud-stalker tornado vehicle, complete with satellite television link-ups, storm-tracking gadgetry, and a big sticker on the back saying "Severe Weather Interceptor". The vehicle's pilot is Henry's wife, Kathy, an amateur racing driver. She said: "I just get a real kick out of chasing storms. When we stop in those small country towns we are always surrounded by people asking us questions and advice."

Kent Wood, a veteran of the Tucson thunderstorm fraternity, described the day loose-flying lightning darted around the ceiling of his front parlour during an electrical storm. Tucson attracts spectacular lightning, he said, because it has a high cloud base and is set in a natural arena of mountains, complete with its trademark, *High Chaparral*-style cacti.

"Weather was always part of my life," said Mr Fairley, who helped Spielberg on *Twister* and shot the film's publicity poster which features a tornado. As a boy, Mr Fairley would bicycle into the middle of dust-devils. "They are real hot inside and the air is orange. Near." He was once knocked off his feet by a bolt of lightning and is a veteran of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

news bulletins around the world that August. No storm-chaser has died, yet, although a man who recently dashed after a twister

6 A man who dashed after a twister with his family in the car was lucky to emerge intact. His camera was sucked up and never found

which devastated Miami and the Florida coast, left 15 dead and damage estimated at about \$10 billion (\$6.5 billion). Mr Fairley's pictures made

have fuelled calls in Texas for "yahoo" storm-chasing to be banned, and a Kansas sheriff last season threatened to run them out of town.

From a cooler, Mr Fairley produced a grapefruit-sized ball of ice which hit his car during a hailstorm in Texas, smashing the windscreen and a side window. He gunned the engine for all it was worth and drove out of the storm at 100mph. A van behind him was unable to escape, and was wrecked by the hail. His vehicle still bears dents on its roof from that encounter, but its paintwork also features — like the scores notched on the fuselage of a Battle of Britain

fighter jet — many red dots, one for each tornado that he has witnessed.

The Spielberg film will attract even larger crowds of meteorological rubbernecks to the Midwest this storm season. There are also plans to hold next year's storm-chaser conference at a bigger venue such as Las Vegas.

For all their high-tech gear, some basic truths remain. "What is the most valuable part of your equipment?" Mr Fairley asked Mr Henry as he stood by his gleaming vehicle. The professional storm-interceptor paused, sucked his gums, and replied: "The accelerator."



Warren Fairley, the only professional storm-chaser in the world, at the wheel of his high-speed vehicle

A tornado photographed near Caldwell, Kansas, in March 1990. The violent, rotating column of air is characterised by a funnel-shaped cloud

Governors of key states pitch for job as Dole running-mate

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate cloakroom has undoubtedly witnessed several intriguing events over the years and it was here last week that John Engler, the Governor of Michigan, probably made his most obvious pitch for the Vice-Presidency of the United States.

During an opportune meeting with Bob Dole, outside the cloakroom with its pristine towels and sparkling taps, Mr Engler said the Republican Governors' Association would sanction the Kansas senator for the presidential nomination the next day and as the group's chairman he also would make a personal endorsement.

His backing has certainly helped Mr Dole in the run-up to the Michigan primary today but the significance of Mr Engler's endorsement goes far beyond the ballot box tonight in which polls suggest an easy victory for the 72-year-old Senate majority leader.

The industrial heartland of

Michigan, and the other Great Lake states of Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois — each of which is holding a primary today — are the effective battleground for the 1996 election and critical to any Dole triumph over President Clinton. Both Mr Dole and the White House predict that the Oval Office will be won or lost in the Midwest and California.

For the first time in decades, each of the most important Midwest states, and California, has a Republican governor, and Governors Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, George Voinovich of Ohio,

Jim Edgar of Illinois and, of course, Mr Engler are all desperate to prove how useful they will be for Mr Dole in November.

Each hopes to gain second place on his presidential ticket as a prize. Assuming that General Colin Powell, Mr Dole's first choice for a Republican Vice-President, continues to reject the position, any one of them has a good chance. None has been shy in offering his unguarded loyalty to Mr Dole and has said he would not turn down the opportunity to run as Vice-President.

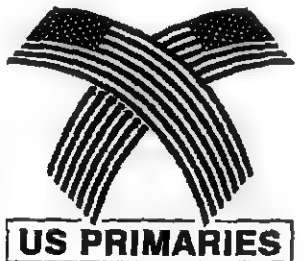
"I was the first governor to come out for him," said Mr Voinovich. "I will work day and night to elect Bob Dole, and so will every Republican in Michigan," said Mr Engler. For his part, Mr Thompson said: "I hope he'll pick a Republican governor if it's not Colin Powell. It will strengthen the ticket."

More than Mr Edgar, political commentators in America

consider these three to be the main contenders for the number two slot. They are conservative, anti-abortion Catholics who would strengthen the nominee among those on the right of the party and may even provide him a means of rapprochement with Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator whose rhetoric had riven the party in early primaries.

Mr Engler is undoubtedly the favourite of the Christian Right, which had delivered Mr Dole the South Carolina primary and effectively ended the embarrassing progress of Mr Buchanan.

There are reservations within the Dole camp, however. On being greeted with news of his impending endorsement, Mr Dole told Mr Engler that he wished the announcement could have been made in Michigan rather than Washington. The senator's aides are unhappy also that the support had come so late in the day.



Fast food takes off without frying licence

New York: The McDonald's hamburger company is going into the airline catering business (Quentin Letts writes). A Swiss charter plane will be painted in the McDonald's colours, some cabin staff will wear McDonald's outfits, and the inflight food, instead of the customary cold collation, will be Big Macs and chicken McNuggets.

The service will be introduced on April 1, which initially led some people to suspect an April Fool trick, but the company and its Swiss airline collaborator, Crossair, confirmed yesterday that

the project is no hoax. It will serve charter routes from Geneva and Zurich to popular European holiday resorts.

In line with the McDonald's practice of prefacing products with "Mc", the 161-seater MD83 jet will be known officially as the McPlane. Its fuselage will be painted to depict the McDonald's golden arches, and the cabin seats will be upholstered in bright red leather. McPlane's interior will seek to create the atmosphere of a McDonald's high street outlet, complete with "Have a nice day" greetings from the cockpit.

Reto Meister, a Crossair spokesman, said yesterday: "The whole appearance of the plane will be of a McDonald's restaurant." He did not know if the cabin drinks trolley would be replaced by a milkshake dispenser. Chips, or "fries" in the McDonald's argot, have been ruled out because of the danger of using a deep-fat fryer in turbulent conditions. Crossair is a subsidiary of Swissair, and 80 per cent of its normal passengers are businessmen. Mr Meister said the service would be limited, initially, to one holiday charter route.



Gingrich: trying to steer clear of controversy

Gingrich learns to button lip

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

INCREDIBLE as it would once have seemed, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has been silenced.

A year ago he was leading a "revolution" that had President Clinton reeling. His Contract with America was being hailed as a work of genius. He dominated the headlines.

Today Mr Gingrich maintains a low profile and shies from all controversy. He has ceded the day-to-day running of the House to Richard Armitage, his deputy. He readily admits to being the "junior partner" now Robert Dole is the party's presidential nominee and promises "to do everything I can to help him".

Mr Dole's priority is now winning the presidency. Mr Gingrich is maintaining Republican control of the House. The same tactics are required for both goals, and the two men must cast off the "extremist" tag.

America shifts ground towards landmine ban

BY MICHAEL BINFON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH and American officials may this week take the first step towards banning landmines, which kill and maim about 20,000 civilians in the Third World every year.

The emotive issue will be on the agenda at a routine meeting in Washington of senior officials from the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Defence with their American counterparts.

General John Shalikashvili, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has ordered a review of the Pentagon's long-standing opposition to a ban on mines. He told military chiefs last week that he was "inclined to eliminate all anti-personnel mines".

His remarks came after a movement in Congress to ban mines following the wounding of three American soldiers in Bosnia, where an estimated three million mines have been sown. Three Britons were killed by a mine in January.

Britain and the United States were isolated in Vienna last year when they opposed a world ban on the production and stockpiling of landmines. The conference collapsed without agreement. Britain, which manufactures mines, insists that they remain defensive weapons. Officials yesterday emphasised that General Shalikashvili was talking in a personal capacity. The Foreign Office said Britain's opposition to a ban was "constantly under review".

Next month the United Nations Inhumane Weapons Convention will reconvene in Geneva, and campaigners for a world ban are now trying to enlist military support. They have been encouraged by growing sentiment in the Pentagon that mines do not serve a military purpose and that the civilian cost is unacceptable.

Last June Britain and America launched an initiative in Budapest to stop mines falling into "inappropriate" hands, and Britain has insisted that all mines must self-destruct after a reasonable time. Since 1991, Britain has spent £17 million clearing some of the 100 million mines scattered across former fighting zones in 62 countries. British Army experts are clearing mines in Bosnia and other countries, but an estimated two million new mines are sown a year.

Defence consultants will this week publish a critical assessment arguing that, with Nato now primarily engaged in peacekeeping, mines have no role in post-Cold War military planning. The report, to be published by the Centre for Defence Studies, calls mines a "particularly odious" type of weapon.

Last week the British Medical Association passed a resolution demanding a ban on the use of mines.

□ Berlin: Soon after the Berlin Wall went up, the Soviet military chief in Berlin "suggested" that the East Germans lay mines to secure the border further, according to testimony yesterday at the manslaughter trial of six former Communist leaders. (AP)

Colombia captives 'in good health'

COPENHAGEN: Three Europeans, including Philip Hailen, a Briton, and a Colombian abducted by Colombian guerrillas last month are in good health, according to F.L. Smid, their Danish employer.

It was the first information on the engineers' condition since they were abducted in early February. (AP)

Disco fire kills 30

Manila: Fire broke out at a packed disco in the Manila suburb of Quezon City and radio reports said more than 30 people were feared dead and many injured. The fire caused a stampede. (Reuters)

Tactics agreed

Tunis: Among measures announced by Jimmy Carter, the former US President, five African states will step up tactics against intimidators who have made 1.7 million Rwandans afraid to go home. (AP)

Democracy date

Freetown: Sierra Leone's outgoing military junta decreed a March 31 deadline for the transition to democratic rule after Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was elected President on Friday. (AFP)

Koala cull plan

Sydney: South Australia's parks service is deciding whether to shoot or move 2,000 of the 5,000 koalas on Kangaroo Island to avoid a potentially disastrous population explosion. (AP)



"She was determined to make it to her daughter's wedding."

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Boost for Yeltsin simplifies race to stop Communists

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin is fast emerging as the only candidate with a hope of beating the Communists in the presidential elections in June.

According to the latest opinion polls, the Russian leader, dismissed only months ago as too unpopular to be re-elected and too ill to fight a campaign, has improved his standing from fifth to second place.

A poll by the Russian Centre for Public Opinion showed the President with 15 per cent support, up from 11 per cent last month and 5 per cent in January, when he trailed the pack. A Ramir agency poll also placed the Kremlin leader second, with 17 per cent.

Although Gennadi Zyuganov, whose Communist Party secured a third of the seats in last December's parliamentary elections, maintained his lead with 25 per cent, his support had climbed by only one point in a month of heavy campaigning.

It is still too early to draw any firm conclusions from the results, but it does seem to confirm that the race, which is crowded with scores of presidential hopefuls, is becoming a two-man contest.

Under Russia's electoral laws, any candidate with the signatures of a million supporters can enter the presidential contest, due to take place on June 16. If none of the hopefuls secures more than 50 per cent of the votes, the top two challengers fight a run-off a month later.

The surge of support for President Yeltsin is due partly to his improved image. Where only a few months ago he was regarded as ailing, drunken and indecisive, he suddenly seems revitalised and his latest public appearances have been energetic, robust and sober. The Russian leader has also benefited from clear political and financial support from the West.

Most important, President Yeltsin has outdistanced other presidential candidates, who so far have been unable to put together a credible "third force" to challenge the two front-runners.

In the absence of any alternative, many voters are coming to the conclusion that while he may not be the ideal man to lead Russia, the Kremlin leader is the only figure capable of keeping the Communists out of power.

□ **Bomb defused:** A bomb found in a bus in west Moscow on Sunday was defused only 15 minutes before it was timed to go off, the security service said yesterday. (AFP)



An Italian peace implementation force soldier stands guard outside a burnt-out house in Grahovica, a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo due to come under joint Muslim-Croat control today. Burning houses and blocks of

Sarajevo suburb burns

flats sent plumes of smoke billowing into the sky above the area as embittered departing Serbs set their homes alight. The neighbourhood is the last of five Sarajevo districts being transferred to the Muslim-Croat Federation under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement. In Geneva, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, yesterday began talks with Balkan leaders aimed at ensuring full compliance with the terms of the Dayton

New leader sees years of austerity for Sweden

Stockholm: Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, resigned yesterday to make way for Goran Persson, who saved Sweden from financial chaos by taking a knife to its vaunted welfare system (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Persson, the burly former Finance Minister, was elected leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party at the weekend and formally takes over from Mr Carlsson on Friday. He told a special party congress that Sweden faced more years of austerity to restore economic health, create jobs and shape a new "Swedish model".

Defying a congress that wanted a swift return to Sweden's former huge welfare state, he said the country must bring its budget back into balance.

To appease leftwingers, who staged demonstrations outside the meeting, he promised to begin closing nuclear power plants within two years. But his promise has divided the labour movement.

Islamic suspects arrested

Israeli and Palestinian authorities yesterday arrested more suspected Islamic extremists (Ross Dunn writes).

One, a man aged 22, said he had planned to blow himself up in Tel Aviv last Wednesday — the day of the anti-terrorism summit in Egypt.

□ **Algiers:** A car bomb blast killed at least five people and injured ten others in Tizi-Ouzou, a town southeast of the capital. (AFP)

Tramp killed

Paris: Youths poured petrol over a tramp here and burned him to death. Police said they were seeking four youths seen running from the scene on Rue LaFayette in the early hours of Monday. (AFP)

Denktas better

Ankara: Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader who suffered a heart attack two weeks ago and was flown to Ankara for treatment, was discharged from hospital and returned to Cyprus. (AFP)

Benin votes

Cotonou: Turnout was more than 70 per cent by early afternoon in Benin's run-off presidential election. The former Marxist military leader, Mathieu Kerekou, is poised to defeat President Soglu. (AFP)

Nobel poet dies

Athens: Odysseus Elytis, 85, who inspired Greeks with his emotive poetry and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1979, died a recluse at his home in Athens. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 19

Cricketing win halts Tamil war for a day

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL glory, millions of rupees, new cars and free holidays await Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka cricket captain, who returned home with his team yesterday to an island drunk on victory.

For a day, at least, cricket even stopped the war. Liquor shops ran dry, bars bulged and members of the armed forces tuned to television and radio while keeping an ear cocked for the Tamil Tigers. The rebels presumably also listened to the game and the day passed quietly.

Some senior army officers left the war zone in the north to travel to Colombo to watch the game on television and off-duty soldiers were glued to televisions and radios.

The Tigers returned to battle yesterday by killing 18 soldiers on the northern Jaffna peninsula with a landmine. Although torn over who to support, most of the island's Tamils clearly backed the national side, which was made up almost entirely of Sinhalese players.

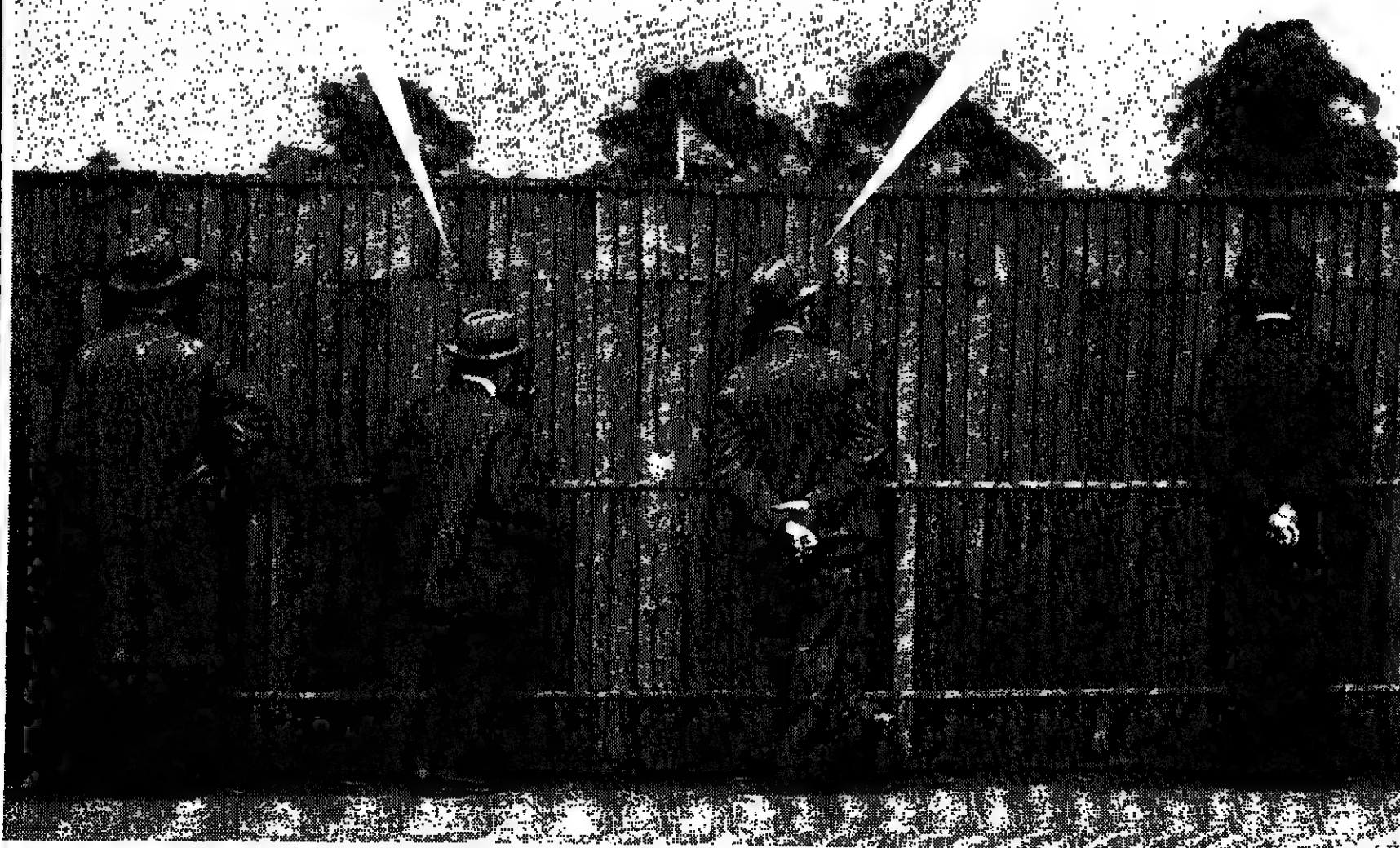
The Tamil minority did not join in street celebrations after the victory, conveying their sense of political, social and even sporting isolation. Their areas of Colombo, the capital, were quiet while the rest of the city went wild.

President Kumaratunga Bandaranaike congratulated the team. "Although we are a tiny country we have proved to be world beaters and you have brought honour and fame to our country," she said.

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World Cup review, page 45

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Why TB remains a global menace

An ancient killer in our midst

I recently saw a friend who has retired from the Civil Service. Since retirement he has busied himself around the house and garden, working hard just as he did when serving in Whitehall.

He found that his new lifestyle was unexpectedly tiring. And in addition to being short of energy, he found that he could no longer use his right hand efficiently, as he was developing pain in the tendons leading to the thumb, and in the thumb joint.

A diagnosis of tenosynovitis — inflammation of a tendon — was made, together with some possible arthritis in the thumb joint. Doctors puzzled over the cause. Had the patient been using some new household or garden tool?

Was he writing more? Was he suffering from repetitive strain injury?

No explanation was found and his thumb became progressively worse until finally he saw an orthopaedic surgeon who made the diagnosis: TB at the joint, with inflammation of the overlying tendon sheath. With chemotherapy his thumb was soon back to normal, there is no residual loss of use and all his energy has returned.

Like nearly everybody else brought up before the war, my friend had doubtless had TB as a child, but his natural resistance had overcome the infection and he had acquired some immunity to the bacillus. But however efficient someone's resistance to tuberculosis, there are usually a few residual tuberculous bacilli left slumbering away in a "walled-off" site of infection. In older people, natural resistance fails so that it only needs some current infection — a lingering attack of flu, for instance, or a period of anxiety — for the slumbering organism to awaken and spread.

The increasing rate of TB in Britain is causing some worry, and is due to recrudescence of TB in older people as the average age of the population goes up, together with HIV infection and immigration from the Third World.

Our problems with the disease are, however, mod-

est compared with those experienced overseas. The World Health Organisation has nominated this Sunday, March 24, as the day when the attention of the world will be focused on the international menace of tuberculosis.

Professor Sir John Crofton, who chairs the WHO working party on guidelines for the control of TB, says: "The best treatment for TB has always been prevention — and the most efficient form of prevention is to cure those who are suffering from it as fast as possible, so that they stop infecting others."

Sir John has found that in some parts of the world, there is a problem convincing people of the need to keep taking their treatment for at least six months,

sometimes longer. Some patients are tempted to stop as soon as they feel better, even though they will continue to be infectious if they give up their chemotherapy. Short courses of treatment tend to breed resistant strains of tuberculosis.

Infection with HIV continues to spread rapidly in Africa, India and South America. In 1987, only 1 per cent of prostitutes in Calcutta were HIV infectious. Now 51 per cent are. Many of these will later return to their homelands, taking with them HIV and TB.

Because the effectiveness of their immune systems is reduced, HIV patients are highly vulnerable to TB infection. Recently two patients with HIV were waiting to see their doctor when a third patient with TB was wheeled past on the way to the theatre for a bronchoscopy. This fleeting contact was sufficient to infect both the HIV patients with tuberculosis.

One of Britain's contributions to fighting TB worldwide has been the production of a straightforward manual for doctors and health workers in the Third World. *Clinical Tuberculosis*, edited by John Crofton, Norman Horn and Fred Miller (Macmillan, £10), has already been translated into nine languages, and versions in another five are being prepared.



DR THOMAS STUTTARD

Massaged into oblivion



Men tend to go to health farms, such as this one in the film *Separate Beds*, at their wives' insistence — and then become highly competitive about losing weight and working out

Health farms are not for men. That much one knows. They are for ladies of a certain age, with too much time, money — and cellulite. How, then, did I find myself sitting last week in a steam cabinet, my face a lively shade of magenta, while a young woman in a crisp white apron sat near by, watching, she said, in case I had a heart attack? There is, of course, an explanation. I went because my wife thought we should go. "It's usually the wife's idea," said the young woman later as she pummelled an intransigent neck muscle. "The husbands are reluctant at first, but then they get very competitive about weight loss and so on." She pointed me in the direction of the Jacuzzi, and I shuffled off in my green towelling dressing-gown, nursing an aching neck muscle.

The weight loss was certainly appealing, but I was more doubtful about the "and so on". This, according to the programme issued on Day One, included health, beauty, fitness, or "just pampering". I opted out of the beauty part, on the grounds that the pedicure and the French facial would surely be wasted effort. And I recall instinctively from the word "pam-

From the gym to the sauna and the wax treatment. Magnus Linklater spent a day at a health farm and found that it wasn't just his body that was pummelled

per", which conjures up images of the rich and the overfed, the ones who need it least. Instead, I chose health and fitness, in a futile effort to introduce a little stern Calvinism into this hedonistic exercise.

Trailing from hydrotherapy to ultrasonic from reflexology to micro-current treatment, is not, I have to report, as stimulating for the mind as it is for the body. Numbled by small talk, you are massaged into oblivion. There is something relentlessly banal about most health farm conversations. They fall into certain predictable categories: "Is this your first time?" "No, we come every year, it's more of a holiday really," or "How did you get on at the gym/sauna/pool aerobic?" Personally, I swear by the paraffin wax treatment, or "I'm afraid I'm way over my calorie count, but I just couldn't resist another piece of cheesecake".

Most of my preconceived notions crumbled rapidly. The modern

health farm is no longer called a health farm, it's a spa. And it's a great deal more than mineral water and hot springs.

The upmarket models I've seen at Stobo Castle near Peebles in the Scottish Borders have long abandoned the lettuce leaf and carrot juice in favour of gourmet menus which, while balanced to the last degree of dietary correctness, are nevertheless extraordinarily hard to resist.

There are cold buffets of smoked salmon, marinated herring, and, my God, new potatoes: steaks and salads, all their calorific values written alongside: second helpings of crème caramel; they even allow you wine for dinner. In compensation, high-tech gyms are de rigueur, although they seemed to be sparingly used.

The men are vastly outnumbered by the women, who come either with a female friend, taking a break from

work, or on their own, escaping from the family. We met a surprising number who had been given a health spa holiday by their husbands, who had not, however, joined them. One could only guess at the thought behind the gift.

I had vaguely imagined, from reading about the Princess of Wales and her health club, that these places, full of lightly-clad ladies and athletic men, must be sexually charged, with assignments regularly negotiated over the exercise bike. Alas, not so. There is something curiously antiseptic about scores of middle-aged women, all thinking hard about their waistlines and their skin-tone, it may have something to do with the green towelling dressing-gowns. Not once was I approached by a vision in Lycra, asking breathlessly "What does a girl have to do to get a cup of coffee round here?"

Gradually, as the brain moves onto autopilot, you begin to forget the absurdity of the whole exercise. Like lying supine, with pads strapped around the waist, while mini-electric currents convey the impression of small rodents gnawing at your stomach. Or lying prone and having liquid wax poured over your spine, which is faintly indecent; or sitting in a warm pool of swirling water, as pointless an activity as it is possible to imagine. Just as the body is being soothed by all this unaccustomed attention, so the mind is numbed by unconvincing, but vaguely reassuring, explanations: "This improves muscle tone and is an aid to reducing body fat... alleviates aches and pains and relieves fluid retention... softens and penetrates the skin, releasing impurities... stimulates circulation... helps you to win the National Lottery." After a time, you believe anything.

But the most ridiculous thing of all is at the end of it, you feel better. You emerge with a warm glow, the skin tingling, determined to embark on a new and healthy life, at least until the next gin and tonic. I stepped onto the scales for my final check-up. "Well done," beamed my masseuse. "You've lost a pound." I punched the air in triumph.

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Inhalers may no longer be needed

A pill for asthma

MILD TO moderate asthmatics may soon be able to dispense with their inhalers: a new treatment in tablet form is just over the horizon. Leukotriene inhibitors are still in the research stage but extensive clinical trials have now been completed. In America an application has been made to register one such compound — zileuton — and this and similar products may be available in the UK soon.

Leukotrienes are by-products of arachidonic acid, a fatty acid released from cell membranes by enzymes. In the laboratory, they have proved to be potent constrictors of airway muscle, and they also cause increased mucus production and leakage of fluid and inflammatory cells from airway blood vessels. In asthmatics, leukotriene levels rise during acute spontaneous attacks and after provocation with allergens, aspirin and exercise.

The effect of leukotrienes can be moderated either by

blocking specific receptor sites or by inhibiting their production. Zileuton is an example of a biosynthesis inhibitor. A study reported by Dr Elliott Israel in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in 1993 of 139 patients with mild to moderate asthma who were not on oral or inhaled steroids showed improvements when zileuton was administered orally for up to six weeks. Immediate relief of wheezing was observed after a single dose, although after two hours the effect was less than half that which could be obtained with a Ventolin inhaler.

Leukotriene interventions will improve lung function levels by 15 to 20 per cent. This is of the same order as low to moderate doses of inhaled steroids and should offer an alternative. If long-term comparative trials with steroids also show clinical benefits, a reduction in their use may also be possible.

DR LAURENCE KNOTT

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After Las Vegas, no one wants Britain's favourite boxer to get back in the ring. Giles Coren suggests a few alternative career moves

The scars may darken, and the surgeon's knife reconstruct the eyebrow Frank Bruno gave his country on Sunday morning, but there is one thing that will never heal. The nurses have hung a "Do Not Resuscitate" sign on his career. As if anyone would be fool enough to try.

But what can Frank do now? He is too nice to make a debt collector or bouncer, and too famous to open a pub. But he is coming into the high-profile job market at a good time, and there are many vacancies for a man of his stature and integrity.

The Independent, for example, is looking for a new Editor. Frank is known to have been on the shortlist for some time, only delaying his retirement until he is given the nod by the Mirror Group chief executive David Montgomery. The acting Editor, Charlie Wilson, will doubtless express relief "that at least I am not being replaced by some poncey intellectual". It may sound ridiculous



Bruno's opportunity knocks

but the 300,000 people who paid for eight minutes of Bruno on Sunday morning could do wonders for the newspaper's circulation figures. A job running a privatised amenity, however, would be more likely to produce the sort of pay cheques to which

What will Frank do next?

Frank is accustomed. The news that Trevor Newton is to retire as managing director of Yorkshire Water offers an intriguing possibility. He and Bruno could swap jobs. Frank's handling of the press is second to none, and no one would attack a company of which he was in command. Newton could make a packet in the ring; there would be no shortage of contenders lining up to fight him, and the whole of Yorkshire would pay-per-view to see him get a pasting. And what about Channel 4's *The Girlie Show*? Rachel Williams, its American presenter, has been unable to get a work permit — no such problem with true Brit Frank, who, apart from being a consummate television performer, could dress up as an ugly sister and easily fool drunken late-night audiences.

He could temper the bitchiness of the show, and the unpleasantly titled feature that refers to the sin of Onan could be renamed "Franker of the Week". It may be, however, that Bruno will prefer to take his broadcasting career in a more serious direction. *The Times*' recent "Save Peter Hobday" campaign seems to have fallen on deaf ears, so may we suggest that he be replaced on the *Today* programme by one who is always firm but fair, never gives anything but his best, and is famously keen to establish whether people know what he means.

Then there are the top sports jobs. While temperamentally unsuited to Test cricket, Frank would have been an ideal leader in the wham-bam showmanship of the pyjama World Cup. Equally, his

services as and bulldog captain would be invaluable to England in the European football championships.

But it is as a replacement for Will Carling that Bruno could make the biggest impact. As England rugby captain, he would strengthen the scrum and put fire in the other 14 bellies. Then, of course, he would be in a position to escort the Princess of Wales, who has been flagging in the popularity polls. A couple of dates with Frank would have the tabloids right behind her again.

The employment agency, Reed Personnel, has a more sensible idea. "He should become a financial adviser for lottery winners," said a consultant. "He could teach anyone who has made millions overnight for doing

practically nothing how to stay a well-loved nice guy."

It is important, however, to make full use of Frank's fantastic physique. Plans for the rescue of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, under review this week, include the building of a giant statue of Atlas next to the tower, which would take the weight on its shoulders and prevent it falling. Why not save the construction fees and employ Frank?

Whatever he decides to do he must be careful not to go the way of Joe Bugner, whose vineyard business in Australia recently went bankrupt, forcing him back into the ring at the age of 45. But he might follow the example of ex-champion and preacher George Foreman. And why stop there? The Vatican itself will soon be looking for a new champion. With all the skulduggery that has blighted the papacy in past years, who better to step in than the irreproachable Bruno? Pope Frank will at least be used to going down on his knees.

Forget the superhighway, get a life



Janet Street-Porter claims that the Internet is inhabited by sad, stunted individuals afraid of the real world

Every decade needs some kind of blotting paper to soak up the socially challenged: in the past it has been things like designer drugs, religious cults and coloric irrigation. The Seventies gave us the Moonies, the Eighties aura cleansing and rebirthing. Now the Nineties have spawned the mega cult of all time, the ultimate tool to keep the nerds off the streets — the Internet.

Internet fans claim we can all enter a cyberworld, a global community of virtual pleasure and raw information. For them it is an imaginary wonderland decorated with every kind of online art, populated by exotic individuals, all released from the accidents of age, sex and geography, united only by their shared interests and their commitment to this bright, modern technotopia.

According to these devotees, the Internet is a self-regulating system, a technological experiment being built from the bottom up, with real participatory democracy, absolute free speech, no censorship and no boundaries. You can make real friends there and you can find anything you are looking for — information, truth, love, sex, games, whatever. In short, it's a place for the soul and imagination to run riot.

But in reality this talk is just hot air to keep net devotees silently tapping away on keyboards engrossed in the myth, while the non-believers get on with living real lives. The future isn't wired. In fact historians will look back on the 1990s and the current surge of techno-hype and net-euphoria as a bizarre blip, a meaningless cul de sac in the cultural story of the 20th century.

Behind all the technobabble and millennial boosterism, behind all the rhetoric and jargon, behind the self-aggrandising mantras of bits, bytes and bauds, cyberspace, hypertext and virtuality, there is a harsh modern scream, a glorified telephone exchange and a long line of identikit computer nerds downloading fuzzy pictures of Pamela Anderson from each other's hard drives and typing away car-

nest diatribes on continuity errors in *The X-Files* and alternative plot-twists in *Star Trek — The Next Generation*. This is not my idea of Utopia.

No one meant the Internet to become this behemoth that fills our papers with unreadable sections and turns once-interesting adults into glibbling adolescent bores — not even its inventors. The people who designed it wanted to keep it to themselves. They were busy making a military communications system that would survive a nuclear war by routing messages around any damage.

But then the whole thing got kidnapped by boffins and students who moulded it into a never-ending academic conference, with discussion groups and role-playing games. For a while the net was the province of geeks and nerds and no one knew anything about it. Happy days, now long gone.

But in the last few years it mutated again into a giant open-ended web of documents, graphics, sounds and moving pictures, the World Wide Web, and in this incarnation it has become a fully fledged mass medium, with advertising, celebrities, subcultures and catastrophic levels of hype. Because the web is readily accessible — and anyone can publish — it is the techno version of CB radio, with as much quality control as home-brewed beer.

To enter this world you need unlimited time to wade through the morass of rubbish. Sometimes you stumble upon interesting snippets, but you need to be keen and ready to waste large chunks of your life. Everybody from the Rolling Stones to Guinness have created Web "sites" in order to sell you something. How terribly Utopian.

What the net needs is a kind of filter. "Maybe what people are expressing fear of technology, what they're secretly telling you is that they're feeling paralysed by the number of information options

they have available to them," says Doug Coupland, author of *Microserfs* and *Generation X*. "I think for example we might have to teach children in school in the future not only basic information, but how to choose, how to locate information; it's just about as important as knowing what to do with the information once you get it."

A huge amount of information on the net lacks authority. After all, it's put there by everyone from hungry multinational corporate spiders to one-off libertarian nutters in log cabins in Oregon. You may be able to log on to President Clinton's homepage at the White House, but it doesn't actually advance democracy one iota. In fact political debate exists on a level that would disgrace the average saloon bar. The net won't give us real relationships either: virtual friends and virtual communities are just more empty promises.

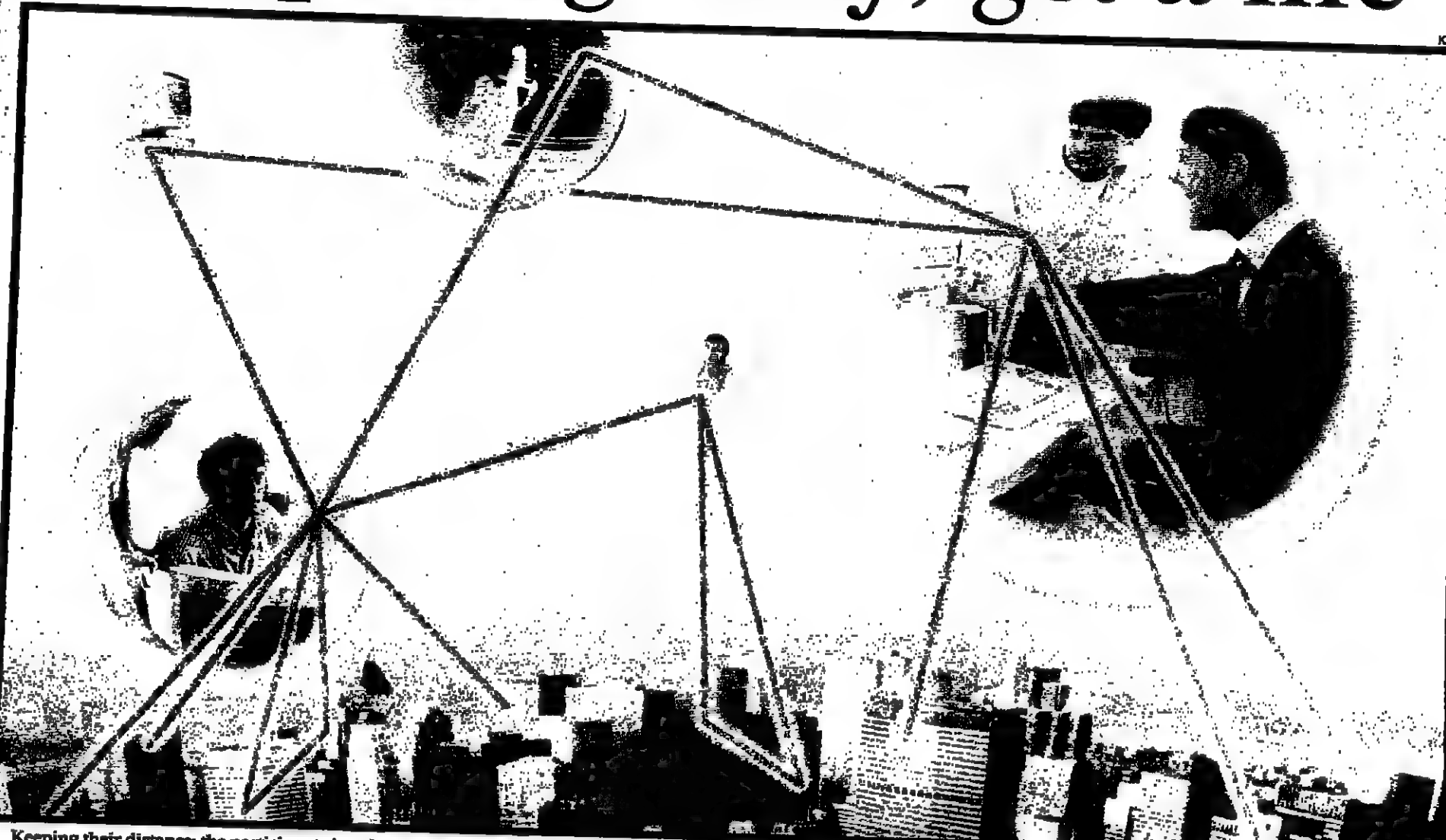
Cyber-types call bodies "meat" and eulogise "shedding the flesh" — they aren't

turned on by reality. So sex, surely one of the most primal, exciting and complex bodily experiences, gets transformed in cyber-world into a series of impersonal fantasies. The participants in cyber-sex relationships hide behind false identities, false sexualities, false reactions. A virtual chat-up will never replace the real thing. Is starting at a pixelated naked torso as exciting as touching a clothed one? And accessing anything takes a disproportionate amount of time. No wonder people need to talk themselves up with surfing metaphors — the reality isn't even peddling or ambling, it's more like sitting in a traffic jam waiting for the lights to change — and they don't. That is the truth about the information superhighway: it is already overcrowded and logjammed.

It is fascinating that, in spite of all the frenzy about the Internet and the information superhighway, people are increasingly choosing real experiences. Attendances at art galleries are up. So are book sales. There are more specialist magazines (printed on paper) than ever. There has been an explosion of participatory sports, from rock-climbing to mountain-biking, from walking to snowboarding. We want real experiences, real communities, not virtual ones. We want real conversations, not Internet relay chat and cyberspeak. And we still prefer real sex, not the virtual kind where you can't share a drink and a cigarette with your partner afterwards.

We have already voted for the future, and it's the world of where experiences come in 3-D, not via a silent one-dimensional screen with second-rate imagery and fourth-rate information.

● J'Accuse: Technomeds, broadcast at 9pm tonight on Channel 4 as part of *Without Walls*, is presented by Janet Street-Porter and produced by Paul Wilmshurst.



Keeping their distance: the participants in cyber-sex relationships hide behind false identities, false sexualities, false reactions. A virtual chat-up will never replace the real thing

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Regulation counts more than taxation

Government is not just about money, says Anatole Kaletsky

Once upon a time, the cry of every bar-room bore was: "There ought to be a law against it." That changed during the Thatcher-Reagan decade. Suddenly calls for government action were treated with contempt — even in the bar-room. The neo-liberal fashion for "getting the government off the back of the people" gave all forms of regulation a bad name. President Reagan used to mock the traditional Democrats' panic reaction to every political problem as "don't just stand there — do something". He promised that his Administration would have a different slogan: "Don't just do something — stand there."

At the same time, the single-minded materialism of the Thatcher-Reagan era created an illusion that was very helpful to the dismantling of big government. Both voters and politicians were convinced that the power of the State could be defined by one simple measure: how much money it spent and taxed. A government that spent a lot was oppressive, as well as unpleasant for high-rate taxpayers. A government that cut taxes was (pseudo) giving its citizens more freedom.

Yet whether it is in the overdone clamour for a total ban on private handguns, or in the far more dubious proposals to introduce a new technology for parents to censor children's television, we are reminded daily that the government's role in society goes far beyond the raising of taxes and spending of public money. And despite all the efforts of neo-liberals to discredit government action, the citizenry (at least in Britain) clings stubbornly to the belief that governments are basically benign.

The question of whether the State is fundamentally benevolent or necessarily corrupt is emerging as the great political divide of the 1990s. Tony Blair's new Labour socialists and Bill Clinton's Democrats, along with most Social and Christian Democrats in Europe, believe in government. They want government to be cheaper, "smarter" or more efficient, but they welcome politically administered collective action and see the State as a force for good. Their new style "socialism", as Mr Blair calls it, acknowledges that the market must dominate in the economic sphere of production and consumption, but insists on reserving a large domain for social action. In this social sphere, politics and government, not money and markets, must hold sway.

Tories and American Republicans, by contrast, believe that politics is inherently venal. Governments and public bodies are always being captured by self-serving politicians, bureaucrats and vested interests. Only competition and the market can keep these corrupting forces at bay. A society that settles everything through the market, and leaves as little as possible to government, will be not only richer but also fairer, they maintain.

Anyone who believes that there is no real difference between the Tories and new Labour — or between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole — should remember these sharply contrasting attitudes to the role of the State. There is scope for enormous differences in the way the country is governed — and in the power and influence of government — even if Labour raises exactly the same taxes as the Conservatives and spends not a penny more.

It would cost the Government virtually nothing to ban guns or to limit violence in broadcasting or to change the schools curriculum or to join a European single currency or to devolve the government of Scotland or to arrange a cut in water prices or to give more (or fewer) rights to trade unions or to put Britain on permanent Summer Time. These and a myriad other social, environmental and judicial measures would not have the slightest effect on taxation or public borrowing, yet they could change life in Britain far more than a few pence on income tax.

To deny this is to succumb to the materialist illusion of the 1980s — the idea that the only things that matter in life are the ones that carry a big price-tag. Yet this seems to be exactly what many politicians and commentators believe, mesmerised as they are by meaningless statistics such as the ratio of government spending to gross domestic product.

The truth is that the degree of government intrusion in society bears little relation to such figures. The British Government spends 42 per cent of GDP, compared with 33 per cent in America, 38 per cent in Japan and 20 per cent in Hong Kong. But is Britain over-governed compared with them? In Hong Kong, 60 per cent of the population lives in publicly-owned housing. In Japan, the Government has wielded influence over commercial decisions that Nye Bevan could only have dreamed of. In America the regulation of utilities, insurance, environmental pollution, consumer protection and workplace health and safety gives the government sway over one quarter of the economy, on top of the part it directly controls. The European Commission spends less than 2 per cent of Europe's GDP, yet its power over our lives now rivals that of national governments.

At a recent Ditchley seminar on regulation, American businessmen complained that they are far more oppressed by regulators than by tax collectors. But their hopes of deregulation sounded forlorn. In an era when governments have reached the limits of their ability to raise taxes, politicians will increasingly turn to regulation to influence our lives. And why shouldn't they? Governments are elected to do things. President Reagan's joke notwithstanding, and spending money is not the only way to get things done.



"You do that again and I'll QUIT..."

The voices of children

We owe our five-year-olds respect — but we do not always give it to them

Yes, of course the media must leave Dunblane. If we do not go voluntarily, there is a case for enforcement. Yet, unlike many commentators, from Matthew Parris to Alan Clark, I cannot regret the intensity of the coverage. It genuinely reflected a genuine grief.

I am glad our political leaders represented us in decent unity, glad that the Queen visited (and, incidentally, that the Princess of Wales had the wisdom not to), I am grateful to the theologians who struggled publicly towards a response, and also that our need to understand was at least partly met by responsible accounts of Thomas Hamilton. It was not disrespectful either for voices to be raised against the cult of handiwork, notably the voice of the former Chief Constable John Stalker, who says baldly that even within the police force, senior officers automatically distrust any man who volunteers to be armed. Above all, I am glad that the sober, kindly, courageous voices of Dunblane itself have been heard.

But as the nation turns decently away, we have to consider what we can do with our own shock and tears. The shock went deep. The Sunday morning silence gave a glimpse of a Britain we often forget: shops and stations fell quiet, and driving through a Suffolk town, I pulled into the side of the road for 9.30am, but found there was no need. Two lines of cars stood motionless during that minute, engines off, while the traffic lights went green, then red, then green again.

Ambushed by tears, we have tried for days to make sense of the shock. At the heart of it lies the age of the children who were deliberately killed. Unlike incidental victims of war or terrorism, they were chosen; to one twisted mind, they had significance. We have to confront that awful fact, because to the normal mind also their age and where they died has significance. So all I wish to do today is to speak, with joy as well as grief, of the particular qualities of a five-year-old child.

To those who have little to do with children, the distinctions of age may be blurred, but those closer to them know that a child of four or five, starting school, is a profoundly important and beautiful creature. The word "innocent" is overused, but the true, blazing wonder of their condition is something that only parents and teachers know. Nowhere else do you

find that combination of clear vision, considerable reasoning ability and utter innocence. It is an age that learns fast, absorbs deeply, and questions life with a serious awakening moral sense. One of the hardest questions that teachers had to deal with last Thursday from the smallest schoolchildren was, "What had they done wrong? Why was he angry?"

A child rising five stands on the threshold of the wider society: emerging from dependent infancy to take his or her place as an individual in the world. Around the fourth birthday, innocent babyhood ends with the realisation that the world is wide and time is long, that not all news is good, that bad things happen and sometimes it is your fault. Age and death become real. For my own first child, one catalyst was the hurricane of 1987, demolishing an ancient beech tree and the end of our house. It brought home the uncertainties of the world and the need for courage; it introduced mortality. "I will be dead", he said, "before the tree can grow up again so beautiful." Our reassurances died on our lips, because he was quite right. Comfort lay only in planting more trees for the "hundred-years-time children" to enjoy.

A child of five who has been kindly treated, not brutalised, may be naughty and wilful, but nonetheless displays a quixotic kindness which shames the adult world. Witness the handwritten messages and toys which brought the police chief at Dunblane to tears; witness the way that five-year-olds tug your hand as you walk through a city, asking impossible questions like "Why is that man lying in a cardboard box? Well, why can't we take him home to our house?"

If they trail clouds of glory, so do those who teach them. The first terms at school are not a cold matter of acquiring the three Rs for the sake of a career. They are spent in learning trust and co-operation and the good behaviour which springs from mutual respect. Reception teachers

like Gwenne Mayor at Dunblane are unsung heroines and heroes. Year after year, they take each motley group of small, fizzy, hopeful individualists and turn them into a class, a group which makes things together and is proud of them. On the wall of their classroom will be a paper tree with leaves each named for a child; or a train, with every carriage named. This is where they learn about society and sharing and justice. Like millions of mothers, I have spent long mornings as a volunteer helper in a reception class and know not only the frustrations and sicknesses of the job but the marvel of it. Those were the late 1980s, when governmental insult fell heavily on the teaching profession and mad obsessive curriculum directives heaped the staffroom table.

Whenever some new bureaucratic burden fell on him, the head would say "Focus on the children" and dive into the nearest classroom for sheer refreshment. It never failed.

This marvellous moment in life, poised between thoughtless babyhood and the dilemmas that come later, was the moment when the Dunblane children were lost. It is an excellent instinct which made us weep as if for a loss of our own. And as we turn respectfully away, that instinct should bring hope. Everybody has said that parents hugged their own children tighter last week; well, we should now embrace other people's too. Because of what they are and the simple and eternal values they embody, we owe them respect.

We do not always give it. This very week, primary education is once more a source of ill-tempered doctrinaire wrangling, polarised between those who despise the idea of "child-centred" teaching and want them slitting in rows and taught by rote, 40 at a time and cheaply, and those who see their needs differently and argue their corner with equal venom. Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of the

Commons Select Committee on Education and husband of a primary head, has been moved to express anger at "simplistic and offensive" attacks on teachers by Chris Woodhead of Ofsted; Mr Woodhead himself launches this week an "MOT test" for teachers, marking them on a seven-point scale with a view to naming incompetents and "rooting them out". There is nothing wrong with improving standards, but the tone and means sometimes used are more suited to a factory inspectorate than to a delicate relationship with flowering human souls.

Again, there has been harsh ecclesiastical criticism of a survey which showed that most parents prefer not to talk of "teaching" right and wrong to children, but of "guiding" them. Yet anybody who deals with young children knows that guiding is what you do: treat them kindly and fairly and help them to pass it on. Small children are not savages unless we make them so: I have known six-year-olds to reject violent films or games spontaneously because they — not we — found them distasteful.

Yet we jostle and ignore them, for all their trust and goodwill. Walk down the road with a four-year-old and commuters will all but step on her; look at the way our cities are planned and you find cars, prestige, consumerism and profit given infinitely more thought than the question of where children can play. We slide ever further into the pursuit of self-fulfilment through serial divorce, and make political capital by attacking the poorest mothers. The professional world derides what America calls the "mommy track" and sniggers at the very idea of a daddy track.

In her novel *The Heart and the Lives of Men*, Fay Weldon deals with parents who believe that their child is dead. She reflects on the unnatural fate of outliving your child, but says "if we are to give proper meaning and honour to their death, and our grief, we must live thereafter properly and well, without wrangling, property or rancour".

Those lines have gone through my head for days. I hope that Dunblane will now be mentioned less, but I hope too that the shock has sunk so deep that the past week's feelings will, for years to come, colour a thousand debates and decisions, public and private, political and business, in every trade from armaments to entertainment. For the children's sake.

Libby Purves

Rag trade

THE REGROUPED Sex Pistols are hankering after the very best memories from their past. The middle-aged songsters are planning to recommission their fashion designer of old, Vivienne Westwood, to dress them for their reappearance on stage.

In the group's heyday, West-



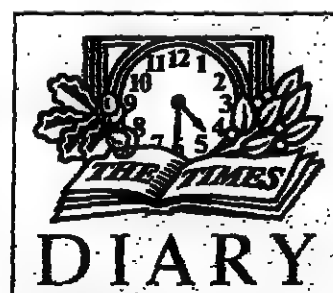
Westwood as was

wood ran a shop called Sex in London's King's Road. She dreamt up a Silver Jubilee T-shirt in 1977 which sported the Queen wearing a safety pin through her nose. And she stepped out with the Pistols' manager, Malcolm McLaren.

Nowadays, Vivienne is still considered risqué. But her clothes are not exactly for the "punk" market. "The idea of Vivienne Westwood designing the band's clothes is as perverse as the idea of the Sex Pistols reforming," explains my colleague, the *Times* fashion editor Iain R. Webb. "Her design has moved on far beyond punk into traditional clothes relying on traditional English design. She's designing for the country set, not for the urban outcasts."

Some urbanites would surely balk at her prices, too. But the Pistols' enthusiasm is undimmed. "The look would not be an attempt to get back to punk — it would definitely be Nineties. In any case, they are no longer gangly youths, they've all put on a bit of weight now." Haven't we all?

● The incoming president of the Oxford Union, who will take over next term, is starting his presi-



dency with a ticklish debate. The motion is "This House enjoys pornography". Lord Longford will oppose the motion and Marina Baker, Playboys Playmate of the Year 1987, will propose it. To illustrate her argument she will be giving a slide show which is eagerly awaited by some students.

Can I come in?

A PEACE protester on the run from prison for four months has tried to hand himself in to the authorities and been refused — because he doesn't have the correct paperwork.

Roger Franklin was sentenced to 28 days in Gloucester jail for refusing to pay £600 tax on his savings, in protest at government spending on nuclear weapons. He finally decided to hand him-

self in the other day, but was turned away. "We have to see the actual warrant," says one of the jailers. "Prisoners have to be brought in by an officer of the court."

Franklin plans to negotiate his incarceration. "I am not in a great hurry, but I would like to get it over with, so perhaps I will write to the court," he says. He explains that he evaded his captors for so long by refusing to answer the door to bailiffs. On other occasions he was at pottery classes.

Shawl thing

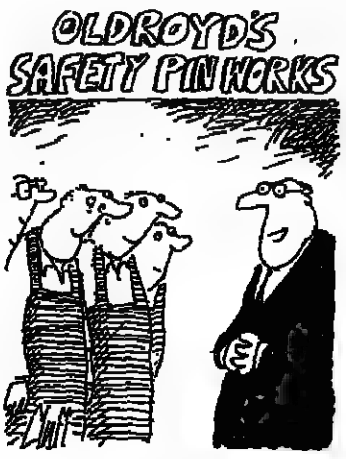
WILL HER famous blonde bouffant be swathed in the shawl that goes with the shawl kameez? Baroness Thatcher is to visit Pakistan at the end of the week, and those who admire the Iron Lady's sturdy suits are wondering whether, like the Princess of Wales, she will concede to Pakistani cultural convention and don the flowing garments so gracefully worn by Jemima, wife of Imran Khan.

Lady Thatcher will be attending an Asian leadership seminar, but her office proves sketchy on details. However, there are great hopes that she might take tea with Jemima, whose father Sir James Goldsmith is a staunch ally of the Baroness.

● Doubles all round for Ilie Nastase's tennis partners. The 50-year-old former Wimbledon player is leading rivals by a wide margin in an election for the mayoralty of Bucharest, his home town, which he promises to rebuild as the "Paris of the East".

Foot down

CARNAL NEWS: Philip Kerr, who in January was awarded the *Literary Review's* Bad Sex Prize for the toe-curling descriptions of sex in his novel *Grid Iron*, has fallen vic-



"Great news: the Sex Pistols are back together"

tim to crime. Thieves have stolen the Bad Sex statuette, a foot on a pedestal, which he spurned in horror and left at the magazine's offices. "It was a very handsome and rather large foot," comments the editor, Auberon Waugh. "It's a great loss — it must have cost at least £200."

Too hasty?

THOSE POOR serfs at the *Evening Standard* in London, still reeling from the staff purges instituted since Max Hastings became Editor at the start of this year, fear relations could become yet more feudal. For he could soon be the possessor of an ancient Sussex barony, and calling himself Baron Hastings of Hastings.

The title is to be auctioned next week for an estimated £25,000-£30,000, but Hastings assures me that while it certainly appeals, the cost is beyond him. "All sorts of kind people have been pointing out this wonderful bargain to me," he says. "I suppose I can say that it is cheaper than buying a peerage from Mr Major. I would love someone to give it to me for Christmas but I don't think I'm rich enough to do it on my own."

Time for a world lottery

Simon Broadbent

suggests a new way to finance the UN

The United Nations is running out of money. Some members fail to pay their contributions; several dispute what their contributions should be. The immediate consequence is that the countries which provide troops for peacekeeping (some of them poor ones) are paid late or not at all. Before long the supply of such troops will dry up. It is time to ask whether a UN lottery could save the day.

The sums involved are surprisingly small. The UN's regular budget is \$1.2 billion a year — half that of the Metropolitan Police — and peacekeeping costs a further \$3.5 billion. In total this is about 0.025 per cent of world income — scarcely a significant rate of international taxation when compared with national taxes of 20-40 per cent, or with other international taxes, such as the European Union's 1-2 per cent.

These costs are shared among member countries by a formula of byzantine complexity, which is supposed to reflect their capacity to pay. Historically poorer countries are given a large discount. All but 24 countries get a further discount on peacekeeping costs at the expense of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Many countries pay as little as one US cent to the UN each year — a lot less than some spend on their New York missions. The richest pay more than \$7 a head, and a few micro-states even more. Several countries' contributions have not risen in line with their growing prosperity. Singapore and Israel, for example, pay about \$1 a head, despite higher income per head than Ireland and New Zealand, which pay \$3 a head. Other countries pay heavily for past claims of economic strength by their communist rulers.

The United States' share is much less than Europe's: both pay about \$5 a head. Yet Americans have a vastly inflated idea of the burden they bear. That is one reason why the American Congress refuses to authorise the funds which it is committed by treaty to provide; instead it seeks a reduction in its already modest contribution.

Recently, the EU has put forward proposals to revise the scale of contributions to reflect current capacity to pay, but America's political climate and bickering elsewhere do not augur well. Are there any other options? Voluntary contributions have been suggested. So has a levy on international air travel; but it is hard to see 185 ministers of finance signing up for that. Improbable as these approaches may be, a combination of the two might just offer a solution: a UN lottery.

An international lottery, similar to national lotteries but run for the UN, would give the UN resources without undermining national tax revenues; it would be voluntary, and it could get America off a humiliating book by removing the annual wrangle over funds from Congress.

Lotteries raise over \$60 billion a year worldwide. The UK's National Lottery has been a runaway fundraising success. A UN lottery would have far greater reach, would be able to offer much larger or more numerous prizes than national lotteries, and could raise all the funds needed at little cost to each participant. Their potential number in rich countries alone would be over 400 million.

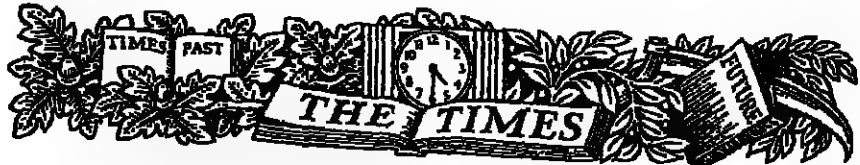
Operating a lottery in both very rich and very poor countries might sound impossible. One approach would be to franchise separate lotteries in different states. But this would sacrifice the advantages of scale. A truly international lottery might take place once or twice a year, selling relatively large denomination tickets and offering prizes of \$1 million and upwards. The odds against winning would be in thousands rather than millions. Tickets could, however, be subdivided into units which might vary from country to country and offer additional low-value instant prizes. Full tickets could be bought by sufficiently rich individuals and by syndicates.

Of course member countries would have to co-operate by allowing the lottery to function within their borders. In America it would need the acquiescence of individual states. To provide an incentive for this co-operation, the revenue raised in each country could be credited, partly or wholly, against the nation's assessed contributions. In the case of poor countries, there could be an upper limit on the amount of money taken out of the country, without ruling out the possibility of a profit through a big win.

If a country had moral or practical objections to the lottery, it could fall back on simply paying its assessed contribution. And these contributions might fall as the lottery began to generate a surplus. Some may object that it would be undignified for the UN's lofty purposes to be pursued through a lottery. But the UN's finances are a lottery at present, and it is scarcely dignified to see its members wrangling over what are, for nearly all of them, trivial sums. Far better to get down to an honest negotiation which gives the UN the resources it needs.

The author is a visiting fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

P.H.S



THE TAIWAN TRUTH

Chinese arrogance against American interest

China's intimidation of Taiwan breaches the Law of the Sea, violates three separate Chinese agreements with the United States to pursue its "one China" policy of reunification by peaceful means alone and amounts, under the American Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, to "a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area". Irrespective of Taiwan's status, China's claim that this is an internal Chinese matter is dangerous nonsense and Boutsros Boutros Ghali, by parroting it, demonstrates his unfitness for a second term as UN Secretary-General.

The superficial ground for China's claim is that Taiwan, which is not in law an independent state, itself subscribes officially to the goal of reunification. That by no means justifies China's partial blockade of the island in a deliberate attempt to damage its thriving economy, let alone its blatant effort to interfere in Taiwan's first truly democratic presidential election this Saturday.

Militarily, China has so far followed the precepts of the two grand strategists still revered in Peking: Mao Tse-tung and Sun-tsu, the 4th-century BC commander whose tactics were successfully used by the People's Liberation Army against both Japanese and Nationalist forces. Sun-tsu was an ardent proponent of psychological warfare to achieve political ends without military losses. But this time China's leaders, as paranoid about Taiwan's enthusiastic display of democratic politics as they are about Hong Kong's modest political reforms, have totally misjudged their target.

The most dangerous phase will come when the election results are counted and China finds that far from undermining the popularity of President Lee Teng-hui, its bullying has, as seems likely, enhanced the majority by which he wins a second term. In terms of international diplomacy, China has scored another own goal by drawing attention to the contrast between its own domestic repression and Taiwan's freedoms.

For nearly half a century, Taiwan has had all the attributes of statehood — a Government in effective control of its territory which conducts an independent, if prudent, foreign

policy. Now, it will have more friends. Meanwhile China has given Asian and Western governments, not to mention the people of Hong Kong, further proof that it cannot be relied upon, even in its own enlightened self-interest, to respect either international law or agreements to which it has voluntarily bound itself.

The risk is that China, whose "war party" has been humiliated in the middle of its own political succession battle, will seek symbolic satisfaction by seizing one of the tiny islands just off the Chinese coast held by the Taiwan Government. It did so in 1955, taking the Tachen islands, north of Taiwan. Alternatively, China could illegally declare the Taiwan Strait closed and blockade Taiwan itself, crippling its economy by depriving it of vital oil and food imports and cutting its exports.

China's Asian neighbours, whose security would be directly damaged by any disruption to freedom of navigation in the region's critical sea-lanes, have the strongest reasons to speak out. Their near-silence puts America again on the map as reluctant but necessary policeman. Initially hesitant, Washington is now playing its hand well, deploying the largest naval force seen in Asia since the Vietnam War. It is well positioned to keep the Taiwan Strait open; it should not hesitate to do so.

Better still, before China makes any further moves President Clinton could bring strategic clarity to the long-held American doctrine of "strategic ambiguity" about Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act commits the US to help Taiwan defend itself; it needs better missile defences, and it should have them now. The Act describes "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including boycotts or embargoes" as a matter of "grave concern to the United States". Mr Clinton should endorse Winston Lord's statement about what "grave concern" means: such behaviour should be construed as a direct attack on US "national interests". China is mistaken in assuming that its actions are risk-free. Mistaken by American ambiguity, it made that mistake once before it led to the Korean War.

CHIP IN THE BOX

Can technology shield young viewers from television gore?

After several decades in which film and television drama-makers have leaptfrogged each other in the levels of violence they have portrayed, the public is saying "Enough!". In America and Britain, a new consensus is emerging. Violence on television and in films is degrading. But is the "V-chip" the answer to the gore that so many so detest?

Last month in America, Congress passed legislation compelling all TV manufacturers to install these chips in new sets. Virginia Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary, is considering following suit. Since the chip costs only 60p to install, the obligation is not onerous. Once in place, the chip recognises an electronic call sign attached to programmes with high levels of violence or explicit sex. If parents wish, they can then scramble all such programmes.

This sounds like the perfect solution to the problem of children watching unsuitable fare. It seems to deal with the difficulty of monitoring what children see on their own television sets, and works even when the parents are out. Best of all, it imposes a blanket ban, relieving parents of the need to argue their case against each individual programme of which they disapprove.

On closer examination, however, the V-chip has flaws. First, it will take at least a generation to have much effect. The average life of a television is 20 years, and the oldest sets usually find their way to children's bedrooms. Secondly, as experience with satellite blocking systems has already shown, children tend to be more technologically adept than their parents and are ingenious at unscrambling transmissions.

Meanwhile, the regulatory body monitoring the programmes will have a mammoth task. In America, for every 700 films released each year, there are more than 700,000 hours of television on an average cable system. Europe is moving in that direction. How would censors decide whether a production of *Titus Andronicus* was more violent than an episode of *Cracker*, or a documentary on Rwanda?

Even supposing practical problems could be overcome, the V-chip might suffer from the law of unintended consequences. Those children most in need of protection would be those least likely to receive it. Well-balanced children could find their viewing restricted to anything they liked. Broadcasters, sheltering behind the V-chip, might then be tempted to put out ever more shocking programmes on the ground that only adults need watch them.

There lies the rub. Violence corrupts not just children, but parents too. The constant fare of shooting, murder, brawls and rape that is pumped out on prime-time TV these days makes violence look like a part of everyday life. If you believe the broadcasters, the only glamorous profession to be in, apart from crime, is one of the emergency services. This is not "real life" — it is a thousand miles away from the life most people lead. Film-makers and broadcasters should look to their own consciences and broaden their imagination. Blood is not the only component of the human body, nor testosterone the only driving force. Humans possess also a brain and a heart.

VICTORY MOST SWEET

But when will we next see the Sri Lankans in England?

Cricket-lovers in this country, ill-served by their own tattered side, are entitled to rejoice today in Sri Lanka's World Cup victory. If today's energetic triumph over Australia was the sweeter for its overturning of pre-tournament predictions, it was also profoundly romantic. Contriving somehow to be both boyish and gentlemanly, Arjuna Ranatunga's men played a skilled and smiling game — with a strength of resolve and a frankness of shot-making that no adversary was able to match.

Yet cricket-lovers in this country have good reason also to be hopping mad: not with Michael Atherton's vanquished journeyman of course, for they did their best, poor souls; nor even with Ray Illingworth, although they will not be milling to buy him pints of ale at the Slog and Duck in Pudsey. Popular anger should be directed, instead, at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for its conceit, its purliness and its attitude to Sri Lankan cricket.

The TCCB runs Test cricket in this country, deciding which sides come here to play, when they come and how often. Since their elevation to full Test match status — in February 1982, when Keith Fletcher's team played a side captained by Bandula Warnapura in Colombo — Sri Lanka has toured England only three times, and for a mere single Test on each occasion. The last time was in 1991, six years ago, and the next

will not be until 1998, when the deft Sri Lankans have been pencilled in for yet another single Test match.

The cricket authorities in Colombo have pleaded often with the TCCB: let us have a full tour, allow us at least a three-Test series, play us more often than you do. But the men at Lord's have responded always with withering disdain: Sri Lanka, they have concluded, are just not good enough for an extended tour of the land where cricket was invented. In the meantime, they have enjoyed proper tours of India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia, "growing up" each time as cricketers and putting their signature clearly on the modern game.

Sri Lanka is now the one-day game's world champion; and Lord's had better set aside its disdain for both Sri Lanka and the one-day game. It should not be beyond the abilities of even the TCCB to find a way of accommodating the island cricketers somewhere in the English calendar.

Can they not be invited to play here after — or during — next year's Ashes series? Can they not be offered more Tests in 1998? That is the year the South Africans tour: and what a dreary prospect they offer, when compared with the magical world champions. But let us not presume that Sri Lanka will jump at an invitation to tour England. The TCCB had better bone up on the Sinhalese (and Tamil) for "don't call us, we'll call you".

Dunblane places a spotlight on media

From Professor Sir Miles Irving

Sir, The appalling events of last Wednesday have been compounded by the depressingly predictable behaviour of a section of the Sunday press. With their lurid headlines about the personal life of the killer and innuendos about the competence of the authorities responsible for gun control they have sought to capitalise on the tragedy and increase their sales. Their hope must be that any inquiry will blame the mental state of the perpetrator and the incompetence of the police, thus absolving the rest of society, and by implication the media, from any responsibility for last week's occurrences.

One wonders whether at any time the editors and owners of these papers, together with those responsible for the production of films and television, pause to think whether the ills of our society are related to their activities. The purveying of pornography, the attacks on order, the family, discipline and excellence, combined with the creation of a culture of tolerance to violence, could account for an environment which allowed a disordered man like Hamilton to thrive.

Whenever such suggestions are advanced rational discussion is impossible because of the control over the debate exerted by partisan media. In recent years the medical profession has moved into an era of "evidence-based" care where decisions about all aspects of practice are increasingly subject to independent systematic reviewing and scientific analysis of the published evidence.

The time has now surely come when the evidence on the effects upon society of the activities of the media should be so reviewed and, if shown to be harmful, used for moral if not legislative pressure on those responsible. We owe the children and parents of Dunblane nothing less.

Yours sincerely,

MILES IRVING
(Professor of Surgery),
University of Manchester,
Department of Surgery,
Clinical Sciences Building,
Hope Hospital,
Salford, Greater Manchester,
M20 9UB.

Proposed memorial

From Miss Imogen Stubbs

Sir, Much has been written recently about a perception that National Lottery money is awarded with insufficient public input about its destination. How would censors decide whether a production of *Titus Andronicus* was more violent than an episode of *Cracker*, or a documentary on Rwanda?

Even supposing practical problems could be overcome, the V-chip might suffer from the law of unintended consequences. Those children most in need of protection would be those least likely to receive it. Well-balanced children could find their viewing restricted to anything they liked. Broadcasters, sheltering behind the V-chip, might then be tempted to put out ever more shocking programmes on the ground that only adults need watch them.

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English syllabus

From the Head of English at the Oratory School

Sir, The post-Dearing GCSE is indeed marginalising Shakespeare (Education, March 15). In most of the examining groups' English Literature syllabuses, Shakespeare has been relegated to coursework — he cannot or need not be studied for the actual exam.

This means that the pupils only have to produce one piece of written work on Shakespeare. There's no need to go on studying the play and getting to know it really well because it won't be in the exam.

There are further problems. The syllabuses approved by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority requires six books to be studied (up from three or four previously), which will make it impossible to do them in detail from sheer lack of time.

They also insist on coursework assignments to test "appreciation of social and historical influences and cultural contexts" and so on. Absurdly pretentious tasks are suggested, such as "a consideration of the first-person narrative in pre-twentieth century literature" (Southern Examining Group syllabus). This would make a fascinating doctoral thesis, but as a 16-year-old, it would be so superficial as to be worthless.

The new English and English Literature GCSEs have abandoned rigour for superficiality dressed up in fashionable "lit crit" jargon.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW NASH,
Head of English,
The Oratory School,
Woodcote,
Reading, Berkshire,
RG2 9AT.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tuning into the right age on Radio 1

From Mr Jim Whiteford

Sir, Status Quo complain about withdrawal of national radio support from Radio 1 (report, March 1) but how many other entertainers have enjoyed such an untrodden run of support from the media?

Is it not time for a change? I personally find their blue denim has faded dramatically since their early hits in 1968. That was when our hearts were lighter and our hair darker.

Does it not make more sense for the Quo to target the likes of TV audiences on the Des O'Connor Show (I caught that recently I'm afraid) and leave the jocks at 1 FM to "large it" with their big beat dance music and Brit pop of the moment.

I must admit to wallowing in some Sixties nostalgia over on Radio 2, joining the witty presenters from three nations in the morning — Sarah Kennedy, ably restoring the early morning humour that grew with Ray Moore in the Eighties, Wogan and Ken Bruce.

Here I have heard gems by Nanci Griffith, Neil Young, Sinatra, Ella, Buddy Holly and the Beatles side by side with Sondheim — in short, a melodic pop music policy covering 40 years, and again excluding Status Quo.

It may be that those drumming guitar chords are now just too strident for the Nineties marketplace. Just as Radio 1 is having to rethink its own approach to survive after nearly three decades, the Quo may also have to change sound or direction — or both.

Yours etc,
JIM WHITEFORD,
56 Bathurst Drive, Ayr,
March 15.

From Mr Guy Napier
Sir, Your leading article ("Stay cool", March 1), which backed Radio 1's decision to effectively "blackball" certain popular songs, disregards the wishes of the majority.

Radio 1 is first and foremost one of a very small number of national radio stations and as such should, in my view, attempt to appeal to the widest possible audience. This audience must not be subjected to records which interpret anything but their own choice. That choice is neatly categorised through the Top 20 issued every week and this should form the focus of the station, rather than be ignored because it is regarded by a highly vocal minority as old-fashioned.

The fact that Radio 1 is one of only a few national stations means it has a significant influence on its audience. This influence should be used selectively and not, as it is currently, as a bludgeon. John Peel successfully provided this influence for a considerable period of time without in any way dictating to the general populace. There is nothing wrong with a winning formula, no matter how old.

Yours faithfully,
G. T. NAPIER,
62 Cliff Avenue, SW2,
March 12.

From Mr Anthony J. Morris
Sir, Radio 1 cannot play every new record that companies release. However, there can be no rule to predetermine that records by newer artists are more popular than new recordings by established artists. Who can tell what is popular until the public are given the opportunity of listening and judging for themselves?

Yours truly,
A. J. MORRIS,
Albany House,
Foyle Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset,
March 13.

From Mr D. P. Marchessini
Sir, I would say to your correspondents today on the subject of the new sentencing laws proposed by the Home Secretary, that the purpose of sentencing laws is not to "rehabilitate" offenders, but to protect society from violent and dangerous men.

The second important point of sentencing laws is to deter offenders in the future. In this connection it is interesting to compare the sentencing laws with those within the United States which make a life sentence mandatory for anyone convicted of three felonies. Not surprisingly, the number of people committing three felonies fell very sharply after the legislation was passed.

It is also difficult to imagine anything more trivial than the often-made suggestion that the new laws will lead to defendants pleading guilty. Of course they will, but as long as they are convicted their pleas are quite irrelevant.

Finally, we are threatened with the prospect of "overcrowded prisons". The obvious answer to this is to build more prisons. This simple remedy does not, however, seem to commend itself to your correspondents.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. MARCHESSINI,
Kingsbury House,
15/17 King Street, St James's, SW1,
March 12.

From the General Secretary of the Prison Governors Association
Sir, In the arguments between the Lord Chief Justice and the Home Secretary there appears to be only one area of agreement. This is that time served should be much closer to the sentence passed.

No Smoking Day
From Lady Hillhouse, Chair,
No Smoking Day 1996

Sir, The debate on the No Smoking Day report into children helping parents to stop smoking (Nigel Lawson, "No parental blackmail day", March 13; letters, March 14) clearly needs informed intervention and clarification.

Neither in the report (details, March 12) nor in the accompanying children's information sheet do we suggest that any form of parental blackmail should be used. No Smoking Day urges children to support, help and encourage their parents when they are stopping smoking and

stresses that blackmail and nagging will not work.

Mr Allen Carr's letter says: "The reason that the NHS's initiative is misguided is that it won't work." The research shows that "child power" does work and that a significant proportion of parents questioned said that fears for their children's health was a major factor in their giving up.

No Smoking Day is not state-run but an independent charity, made up of health promotion agencies, charities and medical bodies.

I remain, Sir, your faithful servant,
ALISON HILLHOUSE,
Chair, No Smoking Day 1996,
19 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh,
March 14.

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Genocide in Iraq shames the West

From Air Marshal Sir John Curtis

Sir, The Western democracies should be heartily ashamed of themselves that they have stood back and allowed Saddam Hussein to destroy so many of the people of Iraq.

To highlight just one area, Saddam Hussein has decimated the Marsh Arabs and has drained 95 per cent of the ancient marshes of southern Iraq where people have lived for ten thousand years. He has done this whilst the West has spent time and energy in searching for chemical and other weapons of mass destruction: a laudable task in itself, but not at the expense of ignoring the genocide of an ancient people and the total destruction of a marvellous and unique habitat.

In this country our "protesters" waste their energies in trying to stop the building of bypasses, in campaigning against "cruel" sports or the export of live animals, whilst totally ignoring the destruction of a whole race of people in Iraq.

It is shameful enough that our citizens do not think this is a cause worthy of their efforts. It is far, far worse that government and the United Nations ignore the suffering of the peoples of Iraq. Could one of the reasons be that they are ashamed that they halted the Gulf War before Saddam was overthrown?

Now is the time to put things right. Let us listen to Emma Nicholson, MP, and her Iraqi friends and take positive steps to put things right.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CURTIS,
The Association of Pathfinders,
Europa House,
13-17 Ironmonger Row, ECI,
March 18.

Rural businesses

From the President of the Country Landowners Association

Sir, Representing as it does many small businesses in rural areas, this association has been pressing government to recognise their special needs. We are delighted therefore to hear of Mr Major's plan to curb bureaucracy, streamline taxation and abolish capital gains and inheritance tax (letters, March 16). This will be a real boost to rural businesses and help to create more jobs in the countryside.

On the matter of late payment of bills, however, and the Prime Minister's intention to "manage by embarrassment", we trust this will also apply to government departments.

Late payments to farmers, for example, often involve them in extending overdrafts, with the knock-on effect of bank interest. This can make or break a small business and is particularly relevant when it constitutes a large proportion of the turnover, such as with livestock farmers in disadvantaged areas.

A most positive help that Mr Major could give rural businesses is to ensure that government departments speed up their procedures, and that, where there is delay, interest is payable. Where this measure has been applied, such as with the Inland Revenue, payments have been measurably quicker.

Yours sincerely,
EVEN CAMERON,
President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1,
March 18.

Canada geese

From Ms Stephanie Baxter

Sir, Your leading article, "The pigeon pieman cometh" (March 9), claims that Canada geese are "destroying our parks" and jokingly deplores any sentimentality towards such birds.

Many of us feel there is something wrong in encouraging more and more Canada geese to our parks by unchecked overfeeding, and then culling a large proportion because of the resultant mess they make.

There are humane ways of controlling numbers such as habitat management and egg substitution. Killing should not be an option in a civilised society.

Yours faithfully,
S. BAXTER
(Chairperson),
Canada Goose Conservation Society,
PO Box 6691, London E17 7RS,
March 15.

The old enemy

From Captain J. E. H. Vigne, RA

Sir, The letters of Major Francis Beckford Ward, Royal Artillery, from the Crimean War (reports, March 7, 15; letters, March 13), were of great interest to me, currently serving in Bosnia with 195 Battery Royal Artillery. It was comforting to hear that some traditions have not changed over the years.

Two nights ago, one of my colleagues from The Queen's Royal Hussars was awoken at 0300 by a large rat, subsequently named Kevin, sharing his camp-bed. In the finest macho style of the modern Army, none of us in the tent slept a wink for the rest of the night.

Yours etc,
J. E. H. VIGNE,
195 Battery RA,
Op Resolute, BFPO 538,
March 10.

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OBITUARIES

ODYSSEUS ELYTIS

Odysseus Elytis, Greek poet and winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Literature, died in Athens yesterday aged 84. He was born in Heraklion, Crete, on November 2, 1911.

AT THE time of his death the leading poet of a nation whose contribution to literature in modern times has been out of all proportion to its small population, Odysseus Elytis is celebrated above all for the epic *To Axion Esti* (Worthy It Is). A long work, written seemingly in a spirit of continuous ecstasy, it draws on the Byzantine Mass (from which it takes its title) and culls its inspiration from sources as varied as the biblical story of the Creation and the history of modern Greece.

Greece's wartime sufferings at the hands of successive invaders feature largely in these poetic meditations. Elytis had been closely involved in his country's travails as a soldier fighting successively against the Italians and the Germans on the Albanian front. The subsequent Nazi occupation of Greece deeply affected him. His arbitrary cruelties, and its imposition of a northern and mechanistic tyranny on the Aegean mentality of the Greeks, profoundly dismayed him. Nazi barbarity bred in him a determination to defend his inner freedom against all assaults; to preserve what the novelist Edith Wharton has called "a republic of the spirit".

Elytis's poems were popular in Greece in a manner which is almost inconceivable in any other European country. But Greek is a culture in which the craft of verse-writing has not been marginalised, as it has been almost everywhere else — as wartime elegies, composed by village poets to crashed RAF airmen, attest. Set to music by the popular composer Mikis Theodorakis, his verses might often find themselves being raucously intoned on warm ouzo-fuelled nights in seaside tavernas. In the wider world Elytis's genius was acknowledged by the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1979.

Although Odysseus Alpeoudis (Elytis was the *nom de plume* he chose to use in place of his family name) was born in Crete, his father, a well-known industrialist, came from Mytilene on the island of Lesbos, birthplace of Sappho and a place that above all others Elytis was to regard as his own ancestral land. Although in 1914 the family — there were six children — moved to Athens, his childhood was punctuated



by long summer visits to the islands of the Aegean, to Spetses, Tinos, Mykonos, Santorini, Syra, Chios and, of course, Crete and Lesbos.

His Aegean baptism was thus celebrated at an early stage in his life, and it is by no means accidental that he later came to regard the Aegean as the birthplace and cradle of Hellenism, or that it occupies such a central place in his own poetry. He was first and foremost the poet of the Aegean.

Elytis entered the School of Law at the University of Athens in 1930, but he did not take his degree. He had already come across the poems of Eluard, and in 1935 he met Andreas Embirikos, the poet who so greatly promoted Surrealism in Greece. In consequence, he decided to devote himself entirely to poetry and to the study of poetry, especially of modern European poetry. Although Elytis himself was not a Surrealist poet in the strict sense of the

term, he recognised in Surrealism a great liberating force, one that made it possible for him to escape from, as he put it, "the tradition of rationalism that lay so heavily on the western world" and to "regard Greek reality without the prejudices that have reigned since the Renaissance".

It was in the enthusiasm generated by this liberation and by his discovery of a genuinely Greek scene that he wrote his first mature poems, published in *Ta Nea Grammata* (New Letters), the literary review edited in the 1930s by George Katsimbalis. It also published the works of such rising poets as George Seferis, D.I. Antoniou, Nikos Gatsos and others. These poems formed Elytis's first collection of poetry, *Orientations*, published in 1939, on the eve of the Italian and subsequent German invasion of Greece.

In the war that followed, Elytis

served as a second lieutenant on the Albanian front. It was on the basis of his experiences in this campaign that he wrote his long *Heralic and Elegiac Song for the Last Second Lieutenant of the Albanian Campaign*, published in 1945. *Kindness in the Wolfpaw* was published a year later. Subsequently these experiences, together with those of the civil war in Greece, as well as a profound ten-year meditation on his own relationship with the spiritual and cultural heritage of the modern Greek world and on the structural possibilities of the Greek language, were to find expression in *To Axion Esti*, published in 1959. It won him the National Prize in Poetry in 1960.

Many other collections of poems followed. There was also the publication of his collected prose works, *Open Book*, and of some of his collages. The pictorial arts were a major interest throughout his life, and he often said that had he not been a poet he would have been a painter. In 1979 — 16 years after his friend and fellow-poet, George Seferis — he was awarded the world's premier literary prize for, in the citation of the Nobel committee, "poetry which, against the background of the Greek tradition, depicts with a sensitive force and an intellectual clarity modern man's struggle for freedom and creativeness".

Elytis travelled widely, especially in the years after the Second World War. France was his second home, but he also visited other European countries, Russia and America.

In spite of his intense love for Greece, Elytis himself insisted that he was not a patriotic poet. Nor did he regard himself as a native poet. He saw his task as that of transposing the visible images offered to him by the Greek world to the level of the imagination, where they could function as a world in their own right, reminding man of a possible perfection, purity and innocence that a merely realistic standpoint must always exclude. Because of this he stood somewhat apart from most contemporary trends in literature, belonging to a tradition that in its Greek form includes such poets as Solomos and Sikelianos, and may be traced back to the art of Byzantium and the Near East.

This is not to say that Elytis's mythic vision ignores the forces of tragedy and evil. But it penetrates beyond them. His poetry is one more testimony of the inexhaustible bounty of the Hellenic spirit. He never married.

HENRY USBORNE

Henry Osborne, Labour MP for Acocks Green, Birmingham, 1945-50, and for Yardley, Birmingham, 1950-59, died on March 16 aged 87. He was born on January 16, 1909.



HENRY USBORNE, elected to the Commons in the Attlee landslide of 1945, announced in his election address that he was an idealist and unashamed of it. This summed up his approach to politics. He was a tireless worker for the concept of world government and was devoted to a number of other causes, ranging from outright pacifism — a belief which he modified as the Second World War progressed — to the revolutionary, 40-letter alphabet sponsored by George Bernard Shaw.

His father, Charles Frederick Osborne, was a member of the Indian Civil Service during its great days. Henry Charles Osborne was sent home to school at Bradford and then on to Cambridge where, as an undergraduate at Corpus, he gained an honours degree in the Natural Sciences Tripos. On coming down from university he became an oil combustion engineer and founded his own company at Droitwich. He joined the Labour Party in the 1930s and was active in Federal Union, a federalist organisation which flourished towards the end of the decade and during the war.

Osborne never expected to become an MP. He accepted a wartime nomination as a prospective candidate but described himself as a paper candidate, chosen to make up the numbers at a general election. But the seat for which he was nominated, Acocks Green in Birmingham, was affected by population changes and, to his astonishment, he cantered home with a majority of 4,154. In the House his maiden speech referred, characteristically, to world government and in 1946, while still a relatively new Member, he founded a Parliamentary Group for World Govern-

ment. (This was later, after he had ceased to be Prime Minister, to receive active encouragement from Clement Attlee.)

Boundary changes sent Osborne in 1950 to another Birmingham seat, Yardley, which he captured comfortably by nearly 4,000. He held on, though with reduced majorities, at the next two elections in 1951 and 1955. In 1959, though, Macmillan's "You never had it so good" campaign was too much for him and he was defeated by 1,385 votes.

Osborne, unlike some former MPs, did not let the loss of his seat destroy his zest and he proceeded to lead a full life devoted to industry, his special causes and his family. He remained chairman of the firm he had founded and became a Justice of the Peace in his home town of Evesham. Although it might have been expected that his profound internationalism would have made him a supporter of the European Union, he was distinctly lukewarm about it. He believed that a combination of

nation states, holding on to their sovereignty and their national armies, could never be a proper substitute for world government.

His most dramatic act after leaving the Commons was to leave his party. In 1962, disapproving of what he described as "double talk and double think" during the rows between Gaitskill and his opponents, he resigned from Labour and joined the Liberals, suggesting that more of his former colleagues should summon up the courage to join Jo Grimond in order to help to relieve the country of the Conservatives. There was the possibility that he would be nominated as Liberal candidate for Cheltenham but he announced that wild horses would not drag him into another parliamentary contest.

One of his major interests in retirement was marriage guidance. He himself had married Pamela Watson in 1936 and she survives him with two sons and two daughters.

HELEN CHADWICK

Helen Chadwick, artist, died of a heart attack on March 15 aged 42. She was born on May 18, 1953.

WITH ribald insolence, Helen Chadwick worked to challenge, even outrage, the conventional mores of gentility. She used such unsettling subjects as defecation and decay,

urine and infection, to explore the human condition as it balances on a dissolving line between the cerebral and the sensual, between glamorous idealisation and scatological reality.

Chadwick was one of the first British artists to develop what has now become an almost obsessional preoccupa-

tion with the human body as a means of exploring identity. She revelled in the fusion of unconventional materials. In *Loop My Loop*, the glaucous coils of a pig's intestine intertwine with golden curls of human hair. In *Viral Landscapes* pictures of body cells are enlarged and smeared over epic photographs of the

wild Pembrokeshire coast. Chadwick seemed to find a peculiar fascination in waste materials. One of her best-known pieces was *Piss Flowers* (1994), a series of 12 bronzes cast from the cavities made in the snow where she and her male partner had urinated. She also earned notoriety with her coprological *Cacao* (1994),

a lazily viscous chocolate fountain which evoked queasily contrasting emotions of seduction and revulsion.

Yet though critics wallowed in art speak to describe her work — *Private Eye* once devoted the whole of "Pseudos Corner" to the psychobabble aroused by one of her shows — she herself was witty pragmatic. All she was saying, she once explained, was: "Have a look at this. What do you see? What do you think? If people go 'oooooh', that's it."

Although exhibited all over the world and twice nominated for the Turner Prize, Chadwick was unpretentious, sometimes almost ruthless in her outlook. With distinctive Cleopatra haircut and heavily Kohl-rimmed eyes she had an impish demeanour and a puckish sense of humour which jabbed at the solemnities of the art world. Yet she was meticulously precise, her work always immaculately finished.

Helen Chadwick was brought up in a semi-detached house in Croydon, the daughter of an Athenian mother and English father. She described herself as a mongrel — a hybrid of Greek hedonism and rugged British control. As a six-year-old she contracted scarlet fever and was confined to the isolation of the sick room for several weeks. It was this experience which, she thought, first alerted her to the strange juxtapositions of the everyday world. Luxuriating in her parents' big pink bed, sucking pink penicillin tablets, she whiled away the hours just looking at things, making arrangements of whatever shapes and ideas flowed through her head. When she looked she found that she felt



good. "Most of my works of art," she later said, "crystallise in that reverie between sleep and wakefulness, when you're idle and neutral and follow funny little chains of thought."

Chadwick was educated at Croydon High School. She intended to be an archaeologist so that she could dig things up and draw them. But, although her classmates sighed enviously over her talent for painting, she failed her art O level. Maybe it was this, firing a characteristic rebelliousness, that led her to abandon a place at university in order to go to art school.

As a student at Brighton Polytechnic she began making body cushions, saffron armpits, buttocks and thighs embroidered with human hair, contrasting idealisations of women's bodies with their physical reality. She then went on to study for an MA at Chelsea College of Art and Design.

Punks were beginning to stalk the King's Road at about that time, and their movement's anarchical interests dovetailed with her own. Chadwick made rubber casts of female bodies as fetishised ugly-erotic clothing and played with perceptions of women as domestic appli-

ances, strapping women's bodies inside sink units and washing machines. There followed a period of more political work. *Model Institution* done at this time was an audio sculpture compiled of taped voices discussing unemployment. She pursued this theme when an "art in industry" award took her to Sheffield, where in a series of beer mats she tried to match up the advertising campaign of John Smith's breweries with the rough reality of Yorkshire pub life.

However, documenting social situations and trying to delve under the surfaces of things instilled in Chadwick a strong desire to return to the exploration of her sense of self. It was from this instinct that her best-known works emerged. The Tate Gallery bought *Enfleshings* (1989), succulent photographs of raw steak evoking all the carnal allure of sex. In April 1995 Chadwick had her first solo show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York with her piece *Wreaths to Pleasure*, in which the vivid blooms of flowers — roses, delphiniums and orchids — were floated on the lurid surfaces of domestic fluids — Windowlens, paint and hair-gel — in a mixing of the organic and the toxic.

In 1992 Chadwick made a film for the BBC about Frida Kahlo. She also wrote poems and lectured at the Chelsea College of Art and Design and the Royal College of Art.

In the months before her death she was working on a series of microphotographs of human embryos intended to explore delicate issues of fertility.

She is survived by her partner, David Notarius.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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A RUSSIAN OPERA SHOSTAKOVICH'S MUSIC

The *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* is a tale well chosen to produce the utmost amount of misunderstanding and embarrassment to the English hearer of Dmitri Shostakovich's opera. He cannot afford to be too lightly in dinner-table conversation for fear of mispronouncing "Mtsensk" and the name of *Lady Macbeth* suggests ideas with which the opera has nothing whatever to do. A concert performance such as the B.B.C. gave at Queen's Hall last night under the direction of Mr. Albert Coates put a good many obstacles in the way of the hearer anxious to find out what it is about. Mr. Calvoressi, who had made the English translation of the text, tried to bring help by writing a synopsis of the plot scene by scene in the programme. But as the cast contains 32 characters who were represented by 17 solo singers it would have been more helpful if the synopsis had contained lists of the characters who take part in each scene with a little less descriptive writing and a little more suggestion of the actual course of the dialogue. Abundantly was an occasional relief to bewilderment. When after a long scene in which a riotous orchestra had completely obliterated the singers, one of them was heard

ON THIS DAY

March 19, 1936

The performers in this concert version of Shostakovich's opera *The Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* seemed to have had what can only be described as "a hard day's night"

to ask. "What's this all about?" and again, when a singer who for the last few minutes had vainly tried to make his voice heard across with the remark, "I'm tired," the audience sympathized only too heartily. With a stage presentation of the scene and the action would supply a great part of the necessary explanation, and take off the excessive prominence of the trite remarks which were audible. It would be absurd to attempt to judge the opera from what was heard last night. Mme. Slobodskaya sustained the part of Katerina as well as circumstances allowed, and they did allow her some moments of appealing expression in the love scenes. Mr. Parry Jones

sang the music of the injured husband cleverly. But it was Mr. Tudor Davies who gained greatest popularity by his singing of a drunken song. There were other excellent and painstaking singers, but no one was more excellent and painstaking than Mr. Coates, who, in charge of large forces, knows exactly how to handle them and especially how to work up a rhythmic climax to the highest point of excitement.

TELEVISION NEXT SUMMER LIMITED RANGE AT FIRST

SIR STEPHEN TALLENTS, Public Relations Officer to the B.B.C., at Sheffield yesterday, said that it was brought home in queer ways how widespread was the influence of broadcasting. "For example," he said, "a water engineer responsible for the supply to a town of 250,000 persons wrote to say how important broadcasts were reflected on the meter set on the outfall of his main reservoir. He quoted the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Royal funeral, and a Cuppie as cases where the water supply dropped to almost nothing because no one was washing or cooking while the broadcast was on." The B.B.C. hoped to start the first television service next summer. Its range at that stage would be limited to 35 miles from Alexandra Palace.

Low intelligence irrelevant to duress claim

Regina v Bowen

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Mr Justice Buckley and Judge Hyam
[Judgment March 5]

In relation to a defence of duress, a low intelligence quotient, short of mental impairment or mental defectiveness, was not a relevant characteristic since it did not make those who had it less courageous or less able to withstand threats and pressure than an ordinary person.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Cecil Bowen against his conviction in August 1995 at Luton Crown Court (Judge Marshall and a jury) of five counts of obtaining services by deception for which he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment concurrently on each count.

Miss Alison Levin, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Peter Gribble for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the charges related to the purchase of electrical goods on credit.

In giving evidence, the appellant accepted that he had obtained the goods on credit and had made few payments. He asserted that throughout the period he had acted under duress.

He had been accosted by two men in a public house who had threatened him that he and his family would be petrol-bombed if he did not obtain goods for them. He was told that if he went to the

police his family would be attacked.

On appeal, it was submitted by Miss Levin that the judge misdirected the jury in relation to the defence of duress. At the conclusion of the summing up, Judge Levin submitted that the judge should have included in his direction on duress that the sober person of reasonable firmness was someone who shared the appellant's characteristics.

The judge accepted that he had not used that expression but considered that he did not have to do so because in dealing with the objective test he had referred to the defendant's age and sex.

The classic statement of the law was that in *R v Graham* (1982) 1 WLR 294. The direction to the jury involved two objective tests: (i) was the defendant impelled to act as he did because he feared death or serious physical injury and (ii) if so, did the defendant respond as a sober person of reasonable firmness, sharing the characteristics of the defendant, would have done?

The formulation in *Graham* was approved by the House of Lords in *R v Howe* (1987) AC 473. But the question remained: what were the relevant characteristics of the accused to which the jury should have regard in considering the second objective test?

It seemed clear that age and sex, and physical health or disability, might be relevant characteristics. But beyond that it was not altogether easy to determine from the authorities what others might be relevant.

Their Lordships thought that the principles of *R v Enay* (1983) 14 Cr App R (S) 394, *R v Hargrave* (1994) Crim LR 353, *R v Campbell* (1997) AC 705, *R v Horne* (1994) Crim LR 584, *R v Hurst* (1995) 1 Cr App R 82 and *R v Morhall* (1996) 1 AC 90 were as follows:

1 The mere fact that the accused was more pliable, vulnerable, timid or susceptible to threats than a normal person did not make it legitimate to invest the reasonable/ordinary person with such characteristics for the purpose of considering the objective test.

2 The defendant might be in a category of persons whom the jury might think less able to resist pressure than people not within that category. Obvious examples were, where a young person might well not be so robust as a mature one; possibly sex, although many women would doubtless consider they had as much moral courage to resist pressure as men; pregnancy, where there was an added fear for the unborn child; serious physical disability, which might inhibit self-protection; recognised mental illness or psychiatric condition, such as post-traumatic stress disorder leading to learnt helplessness.

3 Characteristics which might be relevant in considering provocation, because they related to the nature of the provocation itself, would not necessarily be relevant in cases of duress. Thus homosexuality might be relevant to provocation if the provocative words or conduct were related to

that characteristic; it could not be relevant in duress, since there was no reason to think that homosexuals were less robust in resisting threats of the kind that were relevant in duress cases.

4 Characteristics due to self-imposed abuse, such as alcohol, drugs or glue-sniffing, could not be relevant.

5 Psychiatric evidence might be admissible to show that the accused was suffering from mental illness, mental impairment or recognised psychiatric condition provided persons generally suffering from such condition might be more susceptible to pressure and threats and thus to assist the jury in deciding whether a reasonable person suffering from such a condition might have been impelled to act as the defendant did.

It was not admissible simply to show that in the doctor's opinion an accused, who was not suffering from such an illness or condition, was especially timid, suggestible or vulnerable to pressure and threats; nor was medical opinion admissible to support or support the credibility of the accused.

6 Where counsel wished to submit that the accused had some characteristic which fell within 2 above, that had to be made plain to the judge.

The question might arise in relation to the admissibility of medical evidence of the nature set out in 5 above. If so, the judge would have to rule at that stage. There might, however, be no medical evidence or it might have been introduced for some other purpose, for example, to challenge

the admissibility or weight of a confession.

In such a case, counsel had to raise the question before speeches in the absence of the jury, so that the judge could rule whether the alleged characteristic was capable of being relevant. If he ruled that it was, then he had to leave it to the jury.

7 In the absence of some direction from the judge as to what characteristics were capable of being regarded as relevant, their Lordships thought the direction approved in *Graham* without more would not be as helpful as it might be, since the jury might be tempted, especially if there was evidence, as there was in this case, relating to suggestibility and vulnerability, to think that those were relevant. In most cases it was probably only the age and sex of the accused that was capable of being relevant. If so, the judge should, as he did in this case, confine the characteristics in question to those.

How were those principles to be applied in this case? Miss Levin accepted, rightly in their Lordships' opinion, that the evidence that the appellant was abnormally suggestible and a vulnerable individual was irrelevant.

But she submitted that the fact that he had, or might have had, a low IQ of 69 was relevant, since it might inhibit his ability to seek the protection of the police. Their Lordships did not agree. They did not see how low IQ, short of mental impairment or mental defectiveness, could be said to be a characteristic which made those who had it less courageous and less able to withstand threats and pressure.

The judge's direction had been sufficient. He directed the jury to consider the only two relevant characteristics, namely age and sex. It would not have assisted them, and might well have confused them, if he had added, without qualification, that the person of reasonable firmness was one who shared the characteristics of the appellant.

Accordingly, the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Luton.

Danowski and Another v The Henry Moore Foundation and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McEwan and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 7]

Ownership of copies of limited edition bronzes, known as "artist's copies", by Henry Spencer Moore between the time he entered into sale and service agreements with a company in 1977 and his death in 1986 passed to the company.

The copies were executed "in pursuance of his employment" by the company and the artist's copy convention did not apply so as to imply that the agreements impliedly transferred their ownership to remain with Mr Moore.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Mary Danowski, Henry Moore's daughter, and James Brodie, as executor and trustee of the will of Mr and Mrs Henry Moore, from the judgment of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe who in the Chancery Division in November 1993 had refused to declare that the copies belonged to the plaintiffs' owners, the company, a limited company having passed to either of the defendants, The Henry Moore Foundation and HMF Enterprises Ltd.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC and Mr Jonathan Russell for the plaintiffs; Mr Sydney Kenridge, QC and Mr John Whitaker for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that in 1977, when Henry Moore was 78 years old, he gave his foundation, a limited company, the ownership of his works to the foundation, a limited company, a subsidiary company of the foundation, HMF Enterprises Ltd, was incorporated in June of that year.

Henry Moore's motivation for his actions was described by his daughter, Mrs Danowski, as a wish to protect his artistic legacy. He wanted his existing collection to be preserved and his artistic

philosophy and exhibitions of his work to carry on after his death.

His idea was that a family body, run by members of the family, would be the best means of realising his aspirations.

He entered into sale and service agreements with HMF Enterprises Ltd whereby he undertook not to "carry on the business of a sculptor for or on behalf of any person other than the company" and for the sole rights of copyright in any work "executed by Mr Moore in pursuance of his employment" to vest in the company.

The fortunes of the foundation prospered, building up assets valued in its 1993 accounts in excess of £8 million. But Mrs Danowski, an original trustee of the foundation, became disenchanted with the control exercised by the professional advisers over the affairs of the foundation. She resigned as a trustee and with the death of her mother in 1989 her estrangement from the foundation became complete.

In May 1991 she and Mr Brodie, a solicitor, initiated the proceedings claiming that they and not the foundation or the company were the owners of the artist's copies made by Henry Moore from 1977 onwards.

As to the nature of the copies, the judge found there to be "a convention of the art trade that where an artist is producing works using a medium by which a number of copies of the same work can be produced... and the artist, on the sale of one or more of the works, declares that he will limit the number of works so made to a limited edition, then the artist has the right to make and retain for himself or to dispose of as he wishes, up to two additional copies of the work..."

Lord Irvine submitted that an artist's copy was not a work executed by Mr Moore "in pursuance of his employment". Failing that, he said, since the artist's copy convention was a general usage or custom of the art trade, the parties

must be taken to have contracted with reference to it, so that it became an implied term of the contract that ownership of the copies would remain with Mr Moore.

To support the first basis of his case, Lord Irvine submitted that an artist's copy made by Mr Moore after 1977 would have been "hors commerce", being traditionally not for resale and not forming part of the edition.

The submission was rejected. Looking only at the terms of the sale and service agreements, the copies were done in pursuance of Mr Moore's employment under the service agreement.

Thus everything depended on the application of the artist's copy convention as a general usage or custom of the art trade as between employer and employee. It was not enough to point to its application as between artist and purchaser.

The judge had held that the evidence did not justify a conclusion that such a custom or usage was to be imported into contracts of employment between employers and artists.

Moreover, in *Cudiffe-Owen v Theatricals Ltd* (1987) 1 WLR 1421, 1438, Mr Justice Ungood-Thomas had said that for a practice to amount to a recognised usage it must be "notorious, in the sense that it is so well known in the market in which it is alleged to exist, that it must be reasonable and that the burden of establishing that lay on those alleging it."

That statement of the law was correct. There was neither notoriety nor certainty in the present case. Moreover, the application of the convention as between employer and employee, even if established, would be inconsistent both with the express terms of the service agreement and with its tenor as a whole.

Lord Justice McEwan and Lord Justice Thorpe gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Freres Cholmeley Bishoff; McKenna & Co.

Determining place of residence of child

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council v B

Before Mr Justice Wilson

[Reasons March 7]

When a court is invited to make a care order and a secure accommodation order should be made in respect of B, a boy aged 14. The dispute was not resident in the area of any local authority it had to give effect to the intention of section 31(8)(b) of the Children Act 1989 by including the word "ordinarily".

Mr Justice Wilson so stated in the Family Division when giving reasons for the making of a care order on March 4 in favour of Brent London Borough relating to a boy aged 14 years.

Section 31 of the 1989 Act provides: "(8) The local authority designated in a care order must be— (a) the authority within whose area the child is ordinarily resident; or (b) where the child does not reside in the area of a local authority, the authority within whose area any circumstances arose in consequence of which the order is being made."

Ms Mary Isles for Gateshead; Mr Richard Clough for Brent; Mr Roger Hayward Smith, QC, for

the guardian ad litem.

MR JUSTICE WILSON said that the parties had agreed that a care order and a secure accommodation order should be made in respect of B, a boy aged 14. The dispute was not resident in the area of any local authority it had to give effect to the intention of section 31(8)(b) of the Children Act 1989 by including the word "ordinarily".

B had been born in Brent in 1981 and had been placed on that authority's child protection register. In 1989, his mother with B and his sister had moved to Gateshead. That authority had been the children wards of court and had obtained a supervision order. The boy became very violent and had been accommodated by Gateshead in different units in various parts of the country.

B was now in a secure unit in Birmingham under interim orders. Those orders designated Gateshead under section 31 but without prejudice to the issue.

In 1992, the mother together with her daughter and two sons returned to Brent. B had never lived in Brent following his mother's return. He could not be "ordinarily resident" in Brent and lost his

residence in Gateshead when his family moved.

Residence had to be for an appreciable period. The conclusion was that B was not resident in any local authority and therefore the court had to apply section 31(8)(b) of the 1989 Act.

It had to be noted that Parliament had not inserted "ordinarily" between "not" and "reside" in the phrase "where the child does not reside in the area of a local authority" in the subsection. That omission created an extraordinary situation in which some children did not come within either part of the subsection.

B was ordinarily resident nowhere and had to be taken for the time being to be resident in Birmingham.

The effect of the omission of the word "ordinarily" was that every child was resident but not ordinarily resident in the area of a local authority, reading the subsection literally, fall within neither part. The omission could be a parliamentary slip. Section 20(2) of the Children and Young

Persons Act 1969 was the predecessor of the subsection under review. Section 20(1) of the 1969 Act had provided that "reside" meant "habitually reside". Since the decision in *R v Barnet London Borough Council, Ex parte Shah* (1983) 2 AC 309, ordinary residence and habitual residence had been synonymous.

Fortified by the decision of Lord Steyn in *Stock v Frank Jones (Tipton) Ltd* (1997) 1 WLR 231, 239, the Lordships would be bold and hold that the omission was accidental and also inflicted damage on the intention of the 1969 Act.

By construing the subsection as if the word "ordinarily" had been included all problems evaporated. The court could choose the local authority. Brent had accepted they should pay the costs of keeping B in secure accommodation. B's family lived in Brent. Brent would be designated rather than Gateshead. By so doing much bureaucratic expense would be eliminated.

Solicitors: Mr Leslie Elton, Gateshead; Mr Ian Steptoe, Wembley; Rowberry Morris, Reading.

Scots Law Report March 19 1996 Outer House

Authorising sterilisation operation

L v Y Curator ad litem

Before Lord MacLean

[Judgment February 22]

Where an autistic woman aged 32 had been on the combined contraceptive pill since the age of 13, in order to avoid pregnancy and mental distress, both of which it was thought would have a devastating effect upon her, but it was unlikely for her to continue to take the pill and there was no other form of contraception that would prevent menstruation, it was necessary and in her best interests that she be surgically sterilised.

Lord MacLean, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting the prayer of a petition brought by L, the mother of L, a woman of 32, in which L sought the appointment of a tutor to L, with power to consent to the surgical sterilisation of L. The court had previously appointed Mrs Helen Douglas, advocate, as curator ad litem to L, in order that L's interests might be represented in the proceedings.

Mr John Wright for the mother; Mr Alan MacKenzie for the daughter's curator ad litem.

LORD MACLEAN said that L suffered from autism. Her mother had looked after her all her life and in advancing years. She accordingly sought the appointment of a tutor with certain powers. The curator ad litem objected to the proposed power to consent to L's surgical sterilisation.

The court had heard evidence from the petitioner, from L's social worker and general practitioner, the consultant gynaecologist and consultant psychiatrist who had had care of her, and from her curator.

Their evidence was to the effect that L suffered from a lack of imaginative activity, and from

ritualistic and repetitive behaviour. She was unable to comprehend meaning and took everything literally. She might be academically bright but socially she was quite naive. No dialogue was possible with her.

She had improved until she was about 25 or 26 but since then she had regressed. In order to prevent both pregnancy and menstruation, she had been given the combined contraceptive pill since the age of 13. She would find menstruation very distressing and very difficult to cope with because she was very fastidious.

His Lordship had reached the clear and inescapable conclusion that, if at all possible, she should not be allowed to menstruate in the future. It was thought that pregnancy would have a disastrous effect upon her. She had had pregnancy and contraception explained to her but it was doubtful if she had understood. She had a particular boyfrend, who was suffering from Down's syndrome, with whom she would sometimes kiss and cuddle.

Evidence was also led of the increasing thrombo-embolic risk to a woman of taking the pill on into her mid-thirties. The medical evidence was that a change of regime was overdue.

This was the first case in which a request for power to consent to surgical sterilisation had been opposed. His Lordship agreed that the decision should be postponed for a year or two. No contraceptive measure other than a sub-total hysterectomy would meet the additional need to avoid L menstruating. There were also other considerations because of physical and psychological side effects.

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It was accepted that L would be unable to cope with pregnancy. She had probably never engaged in any sexual activity. On the other hand, the evidence suggested that she was suggestible, compliant and easily led. There was a risk that she would engage in sexual intercourse. While that risk might not be high, it was not a risk that could be taken. It was primarily for that reason that she had been receiving the combined contraceptive pill since 13.

She had now reached what her gynaecologist called the watershed in her life, when a decision had to be made about what contraceptive measure should be taken to replace the contraceptive pill.

His Lordship saw nothing to be gained by the suggestion from counsel for the curator that the decision should be postponed for a year or two. No contraceptive measure other than a sub-total hysterectomy would meet the additional need to avoid L menstruating. There were also other considerations because of physical and psychological side effects.

His Lordship was clearly of the opinion, balancing all the considerations, including the desirability of avoiding a major invasive surgical procedure if that could be, that the only way of fulfilling those twin needs which were in L's best interests, was by means of the proposed operation, namely sub-total or partial hysterectomy.

Law agents: Shepherd & Wedderburn, WS; Gillam Mackie, SSC.

His Lordship had been referred to paragraph 8 of *Practice Note (Sterilisation: Minors and mental health patients)* (1993) 3 All ER 223. While it was no doubt very instructive, it simply set out what the Official Solicitor in England anticipated that the presiding judge would normally require by way of evidence.

His Lordship did not think that it was wise or beneficial to set down precise rules for particular situations, simply because those situations would vary so much according to their own facts.

It was a very unusual case. There was a continuing need for contraception and at the same time a need to prevent menstruation.

His Lordship was clearly of the opinion, balancing all the considerations, including the desirability of avoiding a major invasive surgical procedure if that could be, that the only way of fulfilling those twin needs which were in L's best interests, was by means of the proposed operation, namely sub-total or partial hysterectomy.

Law agents: Shepherd & Wedderburn, WS; Gillam Mackie, SSC.

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McRae v Parole Board for Scotland

Before Lord Weir

[Judgment February 22]

A heavy onus rested on a petitioner who sought judicial review of a decision of the Parole Board. Where it had recommended the recall of a prisoner who had been charged with a serious assault only three weeks after his release on licence, it could not be said not to have had an adequate basis for its decision.

Lord Weir, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, held, dismissing a petition in which Mark Alexander McRae sought judicial review of a decision of the Parole Board to recall him to Barlinnie Prison.

Miss Margaret Scott for the petitioner; Mr Robert McCreadie for the board.

LORD WEIR said that the petitioner had been sentenced to imprisonment for four years. After two years the secretary of state had released him on licence under section 1(3) of the Prisoners and Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1993.

Three weeks after his release he had been arrested and charged with a serious assault. He had been committed for trial and had pleaded not guilty.

Prior to his trial, the Parole Board had recommended to the secretary of state that his licence be revoked and he be recalled to prison. The secretary of state had said that his reasons were the serious nature of the charge and the fact that the petitioner had

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Premiership top scorer shows his £10m price-tag still represents good value

Shearer hat-trick proves buyers were not fleeced

Hands up all Interactive Team Football (ITF) managers who are feeling smug at the moment. Of those, hands up who picked Alan Shearer as their main striker. No wonder you feel smug. Another hat-trick on Saturday, his fifth of the season to bring his tally to 34 goals, and another seven points in the bag. Shearer now has 86 points and is doing his ITF managers proud.

There are few who would argue with Shearer's goal-scoring talents, but the big question at the start of the season was whether he was worth £10 million. Jack Walker may have had a bottomless well of money with which to build his team but, in ITF, the limit is £35 million and it does not go very far once you have shelled out nearly a third of it for one player, the most expensive in ITF.

Shearer is one of a very rare breed in football — a betting certainty. There are few safer places to put your faith or your liver. Regardless of Blackburn's miserable start to the season, Shearer was scoring goals. He did it at home, he did it away. Blackburn may not have won the game, but Shearer hit the target. In ITF, that was all that mattered, provided, of course, that you had not picked Ray Harford as your manager.

When it comes to strikers, you have to speculate to accumulate: cheap goalscorers are as rare as hen's teeth. Compared with Shearer, Robbie Fowler looks a positive bargain at £8 million, and while Shearer may have been ahead in the goal count, Fowler has been leading the way in the ITF points rankings. Just as in the FA Carling Premiership, the race for the honours has been whittled down to just three possible contenders, and, while Newcastle United may be on the verge of their first title under Kevin Keegan, Ferdinand, their top scorer, is still 16 points behind Blackburn and Liverpool's finest in ITF.

For the most part, the strikers



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the Premiership.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute (cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prize. With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of The Times, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Brian Borrows, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £6 million on Teddy Sheringham — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Kevin Kickers still in the lead, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Shearer's fifth hat-trick of the season brought his goal tally to 34 and his score in ITF to an impressive 86 points

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED		POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper keeps clean sheet	4pts	Goalkeeper goal	2pts
Striker scores goal	2pts	Conceded penalty	1pt
All players keeps clean sheet	3pts	Missed penalty	1pt
Full back/central defender keeps clean sheet	3pts	Own goal	1pt
Manager	1pt	Manager	1pt
Team wins	3pts	Team loses	1pt
Team draws	1pt		
Midfield player keeps clean sheet	1pt		
Scored goal	2pts		



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Call cost (per minute) 39p (cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p)

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11pm on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 11pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 6pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6pm.

You may make up to (but not more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your most transfer would result in overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player In:

Club:

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
31303	J. Newsome	IN	Sheff Wed	£2.5m
40306	S. Howe	IN	Nottn Forest	£0.75m
50306	P. McGregor	IN	Nottn Forest	£1.0m
Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
42004	R. Sheekes	OUT	Bolton	£1.5m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pos	Team	(Player's name)
1	Kevins Kickers	(K. James)	121	A Total Flop	(D. Thandi)	241	I Hate Football	(E. Lam)	361	Only Can Server	(M. McCann)
2	Jonas Boys 55	(M. Jones)	122	The Mighty Danston	(D. Vassil)	242	Only Can Server	(J. Sanderson)	362	Only Can Server	(J. Sanderson)
3	Golli's Gods 68	(M. Gohli)	123	DDH 2	(M. Corbett)	243	Only Can Server	(M. Lawrence)	363	Only Can Server	(M. Lawrence)
4	Snort And Stubbs	(K. Booth)	124	Wallace & Gromit FC	(M. S. Hyams)	244	Only Can Server	(B. Gordon)	364	Only Can Server	(B. Gordon)
5	Jonas Boys Four	(L. Jones)	125	Journeymen	(A. Jordan)	245	Only Can Server	(M. Hatley)	365	Only Can Server	(M. Hatley)
6	Laytons Lions	(Mr R Layton)	126	Tor's Tormentors	(B. Torr)	246	Only Can Server	(N. Hartley)	366	Only Can Server	(N. Hartley)
7	Langston Longshots	(J. Ward)	127	Wimpey Utd	(A. Heath)	247	Only Can Server	(D. Grassick)	367	Only Can Server	(D. Grassick)
8	Kesgrave Pire	(E. Kirby)	128	Long Drive	(I. Parker)	248	Only Can Server	(M. Corbett)	368	Only Can Server	(M. Corbett)
9	Stevens Lions 5	(S. Brewer)	129	Wannabe Stars	(A. P. Harris)	249	Only Can Server	(J. Hunt)	369	Only Can Server	(J. Hunt)
10	Sharon's Sluts	(Mr D Conroy)	130	The Magicians	(A. Conner)	250	Only Can Server	(A. Wells)	370	Only Can Server	(A. Wells)
11	Fair Fair Fapster	(C. Woodward)	131	The Rainforest Connection	(G. Weis)	371	Only Can Server	(B. Norton)	372	Only Can Server	(B. Norton)
12	Apollon 2	(S. Lazaridis)	132	JRFC 2	(J. J. Roll)	373	Only Can Server	(D. Mullolland)	374	Only Can Server	(D. Mullolland)
13	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bare)	133	Soot Utd	(B. Scollick)	375	Only Can Server	(P. Sansom)	376	Only Can Server	(P. Sansom)
14	Playboy And Smither	(K. Booth)	134	Andy's Elites	(A. Poole)	377	Only Can Server	(G. Shand)	378	Only Can Server	(G. Shand)
15	Shrew Vets	(H. Brazier)	135	Old Turf	(Mr J. R. Duffell)	379	Only Can Server	(Mr I. Goshwin)	380	Only Can Server	(Mr I. Goshwin)
16	Barrow United	(R. Barham)	136	Notts Rangers	(Mr A. G. W. Whyte)	381	Only Can Server	(M. Kauts)	382	Only Can Server	(M. Kauts)
17	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr D. Patel)	137	The Magicians	(Mr A. Newkirk)	383	Only Can Server	(C. Timson)	384	Only Can Server	(C. Timson)
18	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K. Patel)	138	Nadar	(Mr A. P. Jacobucci)	385	Only Can Server	(D. Sullivan)	386	Only Can Server	(D. Sullivan)
19	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P. Johnson)	139	Jacobson FC	(Mr A. Suggitt)	387	Only Can Server	(Mr T. Armitage)	388	Only Can Server	(Mr T. Armitage)
20	James Darlings 4	(Mr A. Nadson)	140	Andrew's Alstars	(R. A. Knowles)	389	Only Can Server	(Mr M. James)	390	Only Can Server	(Mr M. James)
21	Percy Progress	(M. Pershing)	141	Razor's Raiders	(R. A. Knowles)	391	Only Can Server	(Mr J. Goshwin)	392	Only Can Server	(Mr J. Goshwin)
22	Mirvase FC	(Mr J. Dorey)	142	Deves Lichen Lions	(D. Strachan)	393	Only Can Server	(G. Stakes)	394	Only Can Server	(G. Stakes)
23	Nobby One	(A. Brown)	143	Battle Ground Les	(D. Strachan)	395	Only Can Server	(S. Adams)	396	Only Can Server	(S. Adams)
24	Estuary	(Mr P. Gies)	144	110 Percut	(M. C. Chochery)	397	Only Can Server	(R. Pike)	398	Only Can Server	(R. Pike)
25	Dwayns Dribblers	(J. Nichol)	145	Forgive Fury	(P. Simpson)	399	Only Can Server	(Mr V. Beahar)	400	Only Can Server	(Mr V. Beahar)
26	County Pine A	(J. Hunt)	146	Goal Diggers	(C. Stacey)	401	Only Can Server	(J. Whitfield)	402	Only Can Server	(J. Whitfield)
27	Stevens Lions 5	(S. Brewer)	147	Le Socks	(I. Aldous)	403	Only Can Server	(D. Wallace)	404	Only Can Server	(D. Wallace)
28	Turkeys Earners	(P. Sutton)	148	Eddie's Eagles	(E. Woods)	405	Only Can Server	(J. Richardson)	406	Only Can Server	(J. Richardson)
29	The Likely Lads	(G. Padden)	149	Suffies Golden Plays	(G. Sullivan)	407	Only Can Server	(J. Hunt)	408	Only Can Server	(J. Hunt)
30	Justintime	(A. Kent)	150	S Express FC	(S. O'Toole)	409	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	410	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
31	Tony's All Stars	(A. Boyland)	151	Evans Men	(W. Doyle)	411	Only Can Server	(Mr I. Goshwin)	412	Only Can Server	(Mr I. Goshwin)
32	Roales Supers	(P. Sutton)	152	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T. Gibbins)	413	Only Can Server	(N. Duffin)	414	Only Can Server	(N. Duffin)
33	Purple Santoflowers	(N. Rickard)	153	Wildbeest	(Mr J. Albertson)	415	Only Can Server	(M. K. Brown)	416	Only Can Server	(M. K. Brown)
34	Aldrie	(Mr A. Ford)	154	Dun Elm Saints	(J. Doyle)	417	Only Can Server	(Mr R. Thompson)	418	Only Can Server	(Mr R. Thompson)
35	Nobby Net	(A. Brown)	155	Joe Royle's Wink 3	(T. Garmage)	419	Only Can Server	(Mr M. Hitz)	420	Only Can Server	(Mr M. Hitz)
36	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K. Booth)	156	Orbital Brushes	(Mr S. Broome)	421	Only Can Server	(D. Wallace)	422	Only Can Server	(D. Wallace)
37	Pursell Rangers	(F. Macdonald Pursell)	157	Pig In A Poole	(J. P. Barry)	423	Only Can Server	(J. Richardson)	424	Only Can Server	(J. Richardson)
38	Turners Earners 2	(P. Turner)	158	Ben's Army	(F. Furler)	425	Only Can Server	(J. Hunt)	426	Only Can Server	(J. Hunt)
39	Jessand 1860	(S. Murray)	159	The Merry Team	(D. McGregory)	427	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	428	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
40	The Wee One Too	(A. Nelson)	160	West Ham Alliance	(D. McGregory)	429	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	430	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
41	Stevens Lions 1	(S. Brewer)	161	Esperanto Park	(R. Rhodes)	431	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	432	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
42	Cameron Athos	(Mr J. R. Reader)	162	Kesgrave Two	(E. Kirby)	433	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	434	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
43	Adams Man Or God 4	(R. Pike)	163	Red Star Richmond	(R. A. Green)	435	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	436	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
44	Bert Trautmann XI	(M. Poddeur)	164	The Black Knights	(D. McGregory)	437	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	438	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
45	Bartie Thistles	(C. Nicol)	165	DM 002	(P. McCauley)	439	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	440	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
46	Paron United	(Mr A. Hewitt)	166	Demon Shakes FC	(S. Gorse)	441	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	442	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
47	Monster Monstew	(M. Parish)	167	Stigwig Utd	(M. Stacey)	443	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	444	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
48	Ormy Stars	(D. Gornall)	168	The Doug Hutchins	(M. Lowry)	445	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	446	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
49	Natts Lions	(N. Brewer)	169	Abingdon Inter	(R. W. Smith)	447	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	448	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
50	Doug's Desperados	(Mr D. F. Richardson)	170	Abingdon Inter	(R. W. Smith)	449	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	450	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
51	Reggie's Reds	(Mr J. Bridge)	171	Real Madrid FC 2nd	(P. Bradley)	451	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	452	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
52	Westbix Utd 3	(D. T. Smith)	172	Kesgrave Three	(E. J. Kirby)	453	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	454	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
53	Commoting Eleven	(S. Evans)	173	Racing Club Harwal	(G. Williams)	455	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	456	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
54	The Living Dead	(T. Stacks)	174	Donny's Dream	(J. Matthews)	457	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	458	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
55	Burnzy's Babes	(T. Burns)	175	Aberbury Villa	(J. S. Dhesal)	459	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	460	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
56	Stevens Lions 3	(S. Brewer)	176	Steve's Soarers	(S. Tinkler)	461	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	462	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
57	March Pass	(Mr M. McGovern)	177	JK's Dolphins	(J. P. Kichen)	463	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	464	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
58	Jaggy Thistle	(J. Bruce)	178	The Fifty Granders	(R. W. Smith)	465	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	466	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
59	Eggs Wham	(Mr G. Benke)	179	Don't Make Me Laugh	(C. Nicol)	467	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	468	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
60	Sensible City	(C. Cole)	180	Stank City	(M. Franko)	469	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	470	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
61	Wolnoshearer	(P. Bernard)	181	Parizian Beograd 1	(Mr D. Stokovic)	471	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	472	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
62	Jordans XI	(Mr P. McDowell)	182			473	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	474	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
63	The Mind Boogies	(P. Bernion)	183			475	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	476	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
64	Hastoe Rovers	(G. Batchelor)	184			477	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	478	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
65	Vesuvio	(J. Allen)	185			479	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	480	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
66	Santa All Stars	(M. Corbett)	186			481	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	482	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)
67	A		187			483	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)	484	Only Can Server	(S. Tinkler)

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 19 1996

NEWS

New gun law within months

Tighter controls on the licensing of handguns are expected to be in force within months in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy and fresh concerns about a runaway schoolboy alleged to have stolen rifles and pistols from a pensioner's home.

Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre is expected to report within three months and its findings will be taken alongside those of a Home Office inquiry into firearms law to form the basis of new measures. Page 1

Mandela tells court of his loneliness

Nelson Mandela told his divorce hearing that he had been "the loneliest man" after his release from prison. South Africa's 77-year-old President said that he was determined to rid himself of a woman who had caused him embarrassment through her infidelities. Pages 1, 10

Water crisis

Yorkshire Water considered evacuating almost a million people from the Bradford area as their taps threatened to run dry during last summer's drought, an inquiry was told. Page 1

Beef war threat

A "beef war" was threatened over growth hormones pitting America against Europe after European Union ministers toughened controls on imports. Page 1

Dunblane request

The world's media withdrew from Dunblane after relatives asked to be left to bury their dead in peace. Page 2

Officer in court

A Royal Navy commander described as a natural leader and a man of vision, was addicted to gambling and stole money to meet debts of £20,000, a court martial was told. Page 3

West appeal

Rosemary West was convicted on "tenuous and non-existent" evidence, when the facts suggested that her husband Frederick was solely responsible, the Court of Appeal was told. Page 5

Television block

An investigation into proposals to fit all new television sets with electronic scramblers to block violent or sexually explicit programmes has been ordered by Virginia Bottomley. Page 6

The rising tide of down-under talk

Young Britons are adopting a pattern of speech that makes them sound more like Australians. Their tone of voice rises towards the end of a sentence, as if an unanswered question were left hanging. Language academics are divided about the reasons: soap operas, a desire to be egalitarian, or a lack of confidence have all been blamed. Page 1

Cervical smear cuts

Up to one in five cervical smear laboratories faces closure or merger under measures to improve the accuracy of the screening programme. Page 7

Unique rock

A bright blue rock bought for a few pounds at a roadside stall in Morocco is unlike anything known to science, according to experts at the Natural History Museum in London. Page 9

Feeble victory

President Mugabe of Zimbabwe was heading for a predictably secure victory in the presidential elections. But it was the poorest turnout of voters since he came to power 16 years ago. Page 10

Island evacuations

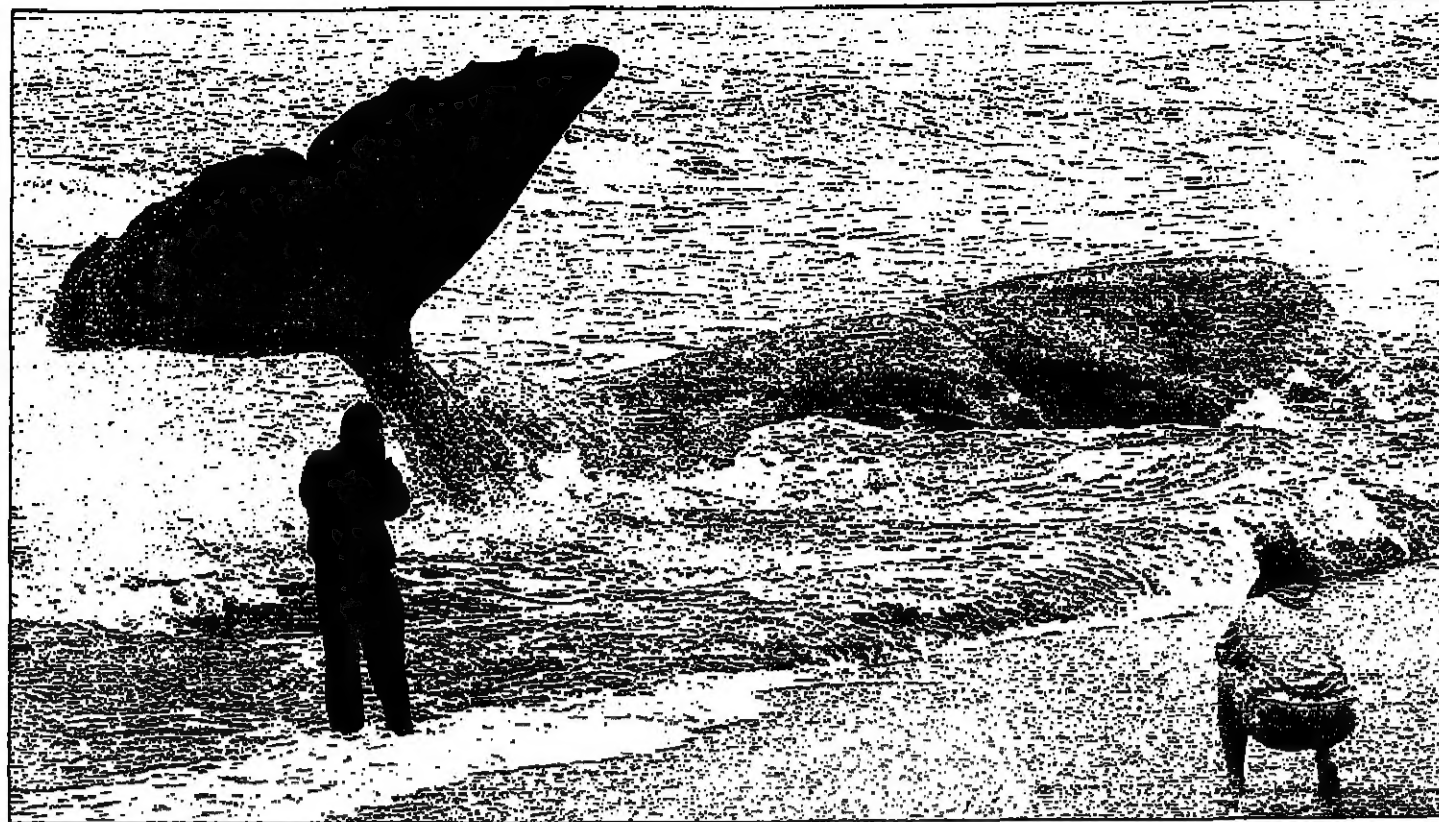
China and Taiwan moved residents from offshore islands where Peking planned land, sea and air exercises. Page 11

Yeltsin bounces back

President Yeltsin is emerging as the only candidate with a hope of beating the Communists in the presidential elections in June. Opinion polls say he has improved his standing. Page 13

Chasing storms

Tucson, Arizona, the lightning capital of America, was the setting for the world's first convention of storm-chasers. They prefer to call themselves "severe weather interceptors". Page 12



New Zealanders watch helplessly as a 30ft sperm whale is battered by the surf after becoming stranded on a beach near Wellington

BUSINESS

Building societies: Predators on the look-out to boost their corporate expansion plans will be thwarted by legislation to protect societies that wish to retain their mutual status. Page 25

GEC: Britain's biggest manufacturer, has confirmed its intention to appoint George Simpson, the chief executive of Lucas Industries, as managing director. Page 25

Harvey Nichols: The store is to be partially floated on the London Stock Exchange by way of a placing that could raise up to £80 million. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 gained 24.3 to 3,669.6. Sterling climbed from 83.4 to 83.6 after a rise from \$1.5237 to \$1.5310 and from DM2.2493 to DM2.2578. Page 28

SPORT

Boxing: Frank Bruno says that he needs a couple of weeks to consider his options after his defeat in three rounds by Mike Tyson in Las Vegas. Page 48

Cricket: The abiding memory of the sixth World Cup will not be of cricket but of the money-making obsession that relegated the game to a fairground. Page 45

Rugby union: If Europe's leading clubs do not get their own way with plans for an enhanced European Cup, they are likely to run their own competition independently of their governing bodies. Page 44

Football: Nottingham Forest, who trail 2-1 after the first leg of the UEFA Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich, will need full power if they are to progress. Page 42

ARTS

Unsung hero: Joe Ely may have a relatively small following, writes David Sinclair, but he is one of the most talented country-rock performers. Page 39

Byronic man: Turin audiences are enjoying the production of Verdi's "Byron" opera, *Il corsaro*, destined for Covent Garden until it proved too expensive. "Britain is becoming the poor man of operatic Europe," says Rodney Milnes. Page 41

Pond life: At the National Theatre a production of *The Frogs* only splashed around in the shallows of Aristophanes' comedy. Page 39

Wall on wall: Jeff Wall's harrowing photographic tableaux, notably of soldiers in battle, have gone on show at the Whitechapel Gallery. Page 40

FEATURES

Net for needs: The future is not wired and a virtual chat-up will never replace the real thing, says Janet Street-Porter. Page 15

Frankly speaking: What next for Bruno? Giles Coren comes up with some job positions. Page 15

BODY AND MIND

Get the message: Magnus Lindkvist spends a day at a health farm and finds it isn't just his body that gets pummelled. Page 14

Controlling TB: Rates are rising in Britain due to a return in older people, HIV and immigration from the Third World, reports Dr Thomas Stuttaford. Page 14

LAW

Mothers and madness: In the light of the Caroline Beale case is it barbaric or enlightened to grant clemency to a mother who kills her baby? Page 33

THE READERS

Even as China is shooting missiles toward Taiwan, the administration is downplaying in the most unconvincable fashion the need for this country to protect itself against such a threat. If only Lady Thatcher were in a position to pick up the phone again, and let President Clinton know what's what, we might all have reason to feel a whole lot safer. Page 33

Dunblane: Radio 1; genocide; sentencing; rural business; English syllabus; no smoking day. Page 17

— Washington Times

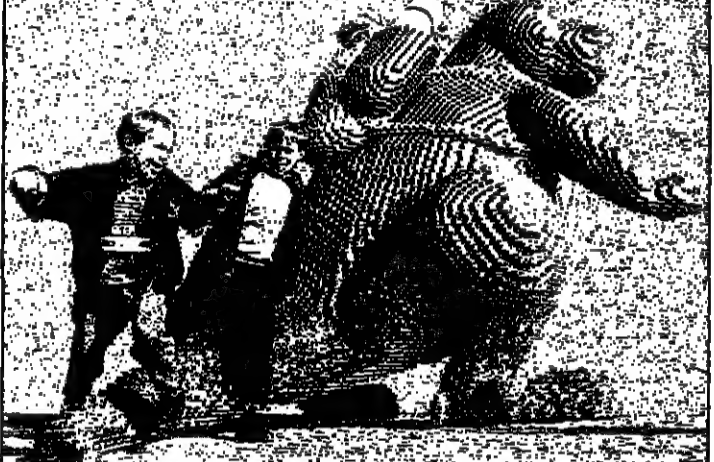
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

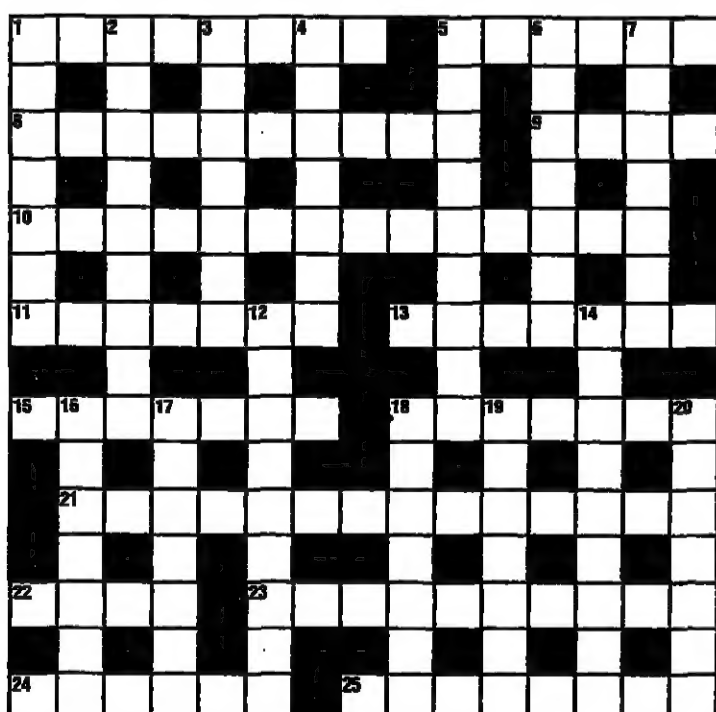
INTERFACE
In our guide to new technology: Legoland, where controlling computerised dinosaurs is child's play

PLUS...

Simon Jenkins, Nigella Lawson, and Iain R. Webb in Paris



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,119



ACROSS

- 1 So little point in this intelligence message! (8).
- 5 Floppy disk work in dusty environment? (6).
- 8 Assisted me to distribute coffee cups (10).
- 9 He split an apple and peach (4).
- 10 Board game to push change no longer (5-9).
- 11 Letter reproduced in elite, with PS (7).
- 13 Pick up and report rumour (7).
- 15 Introduction of umpire in March (7).
- 18 Old hat of chief, and superb cape (7).
- 21 This, from Latin, is smart? No, badly done (14).
- 22 Money taken from chapel funds (4).

DOWN

- 23 Like a neat high jump in the nursery (10).
- 24 Not easy to move team-leader into firm (6).
- 25 Using signs to show largest development round university (8).
- 1 Times do change for a fashionable dressmaker (7).
- 2 Write music about it that is synthesized (9).
- 3 Where French score almost is surpassed (7).
- 4 Playing forward, to leg? (2,5).
- 5 Shredded paper said to vanish without trace (9).
- 6 More frequently, emollient is not opened (7).
- 7 Girl friend initially providing Asian tree (7).
- 12 Clear date fixed for rent (9).
- 14 Victoria, possibly - queen from whom our rulers come? (9).
- 16 Baller's originator switching Wooster's parts (7).
- 17 Maximum holding one can manage single-handed (7).
- 18 Deficiency that causes increased cardiac weakness (7).
- 19 Bloke allowed to supply wreath (7).
- 20 Key of C learnt haphazardly (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,118

BUTCHERS SWITCH
ROASTERS
AGAINST THE GRAIN
NIGHT TETTER
DISOBEY READERS
YET AGAIN
POIGNANT LOGUM
GO BOO
ADLIB SYNDROME
NEVER OF F
GREENIN BEEPKE
SMALLER
THE POWER THAT BE
IN WETTES
RADISH TEAPARTY

THE TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
North Wales	708
South Wales	709
Central Scotland	710
North Scotland	711
East Scotland	712
West Scotland	713
North Ireland	714
South Ireland	715
Central Ireland	716
West Ireland	717
East Ireland	718
South Ireland	719
North Ireland	720
Central Ireland	721
West Ireland	722
East Ireland	723
South Ireland	724
North Ireland	725
Central Ireland	726
West Ireland	727
East Ireland	728
South Ireland	729
North Ireland	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 035 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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East Ireland	718
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North Ireland	720
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East Ireland	723
South Ireland	724
North Ireland	725
Central Ireland	726
West Ireland	727
East Ireland	728
South Ireland	729
North Ireland	730

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 13C (55F); lowest night temp: Jersey, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Hildesheim, 0.5in (13mm); highest sunshine: Jersey, 9 hrs.

AAROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be mostly dry but rather cloudy. Overnight fog should clear during the morning, with the chance of sunny intervals developing later. Northeast England may see some drizzle at times. There may be showers over southern England during the afternoon. Mild in brighter parts.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy, with some light rain over northern and eastern Scotland, falling as sleet or snow on hills. Northern Ireland should be brighter later. Near normal temperatures.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England: mainly dry. Early mist and fog clearing during morning, some bright intervals developing. Wind light, east or southeasterly. Mild. Max 9C (48F).

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales: early mist and fog clearing, then dry, but the chance of the odd shower during afternoon. Wind light to moderate, southeasterly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: rather cloudy, some light rain or drizzle at times, perhaps sleet or snow on hills. Wind east or southeasterly, light to moderate. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland: mostly dry but rather cloudy, perhaps the odd spot of rain in places. Wind easterly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

Shetland: some sunny intervals, possibility of rain at times. Wind east or southeasterly, moderate to fresh. Max 8C (46F).

N Ireland: any early drizzle should clear, some bright or sunny intervals developing. Wind southeasterly, moderate. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: still unsettled, rain spreading from southwest. Mild in south.

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